



IMPORTANT MESSAGE

California Department of Health Services
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Hib-Containing Vaccine Supply

Dear VFC Provider,

As a result of a nationwide Hib vaccine supply shortage for the past 18 months, CDC had recommended temporary deferral of the routine Hib vaccine booster dose administered to most healthy children at age 12--15 months.

Beginning July 2009, CDC is now recommending reinstatement of the booster dose of Hib vaccine for children aged 12--15 months who have completed the primary 3-dose series. Please refer to these important points about the updated recommendation:

- This recommendation is based on the anticipation of a gradual increased production of Sanofi's Hib-containing vaccines (Pentacel® and ActHib®), resulting on sufficient vaccine availability in the United States to reinstate the booster dose. However, supply is not yet ample enough to support mass notification or recall of children with deferred Hib booster doses.
- The California Vaccines for Children Program is currently working on issuing guidance for the implementation of this updated recommendation, taking into consideration the state's current limited vaccine supply of Hib-containing vaccines.
- The only product currently available to meet the need of providers reinstating the booster dose is Pentacel®.
- California continues to receive a limited supply of Hib-containing vaccines (mostly in the form of Pentacel®) and the allocation of these products is expected to **gradually** increase in the next several months.
- At this point, VFC is discouraging providers from placing Hib-only supplemental requests in order to implement this recommendation.
- Clinic staff should carefully assess the number of doses needed to reinstate the Hib booster dose within their practice, based on historical usage information. This will aid practices in placing an adequate vaccine request at **their next vaccine order**.

**For any questions, please call (877) 243-8832 or
visit our website at www.eziz.org.**

Including this cover sheet, this transmission consists of 1 page.