# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

**Connecticut State Department of Education**
**Connecticut Department of Public Health**

**TO:** Administrators of Nonpublic Schools
Administrators of Nonpublic Special Education Programs

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**SUBJECT:** Temporary Suspension of Prekindergarten (pre-K) and Kindergarten School Immunization Entry Requirement for Hib Vaccine

The purpose of this communication is to update you on the nationwide shortage of Haemophilus Influenzae type B (Hib) vaccine and its impact on the immunization requirements for school entry. There are two vaccine manufacturers of Hib vaccine in the United States. In December 2007, one of the vaccine manufacturers had a recall of their product creating a temporary shortage of available Hib vaccine nationally. It was anticipated that the vaccine shortage would have been resolved by the end of October 2008; however, the latest information indicates that the Hib shortage will continue into mid-2009.

In response to the decrease in Hib vaccine supply, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued interim recommendations to defer giving the routine booster dose of Hib vaccine for healthy children at 12-15 months of age until the supply of vaccine has been fully restored. The interim recommendations can be accessed at http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5746a2.htm. As a result, **the Department of Public Health are temporarily suspending the Hib booster dose requirement for children 4 years of age and younger who enroll in pre-K and kindergarten programs.**

The suspension will be in effect until the vaccine shortage is resolved. Once the shortage is over, the DPH will resume enforcement of the requirement and allow a three month catch up period for those children whose immunizations were deferred due to the shortage. If your school district has children who were impacted by this shortage, school nurses should institute a tracking mechanism to ensure that these children received the Hib booster once the shortage is resolved. In addition, it should be noted that physicians have been advised to defer administering the Hib booster dose until the shortage has been resolved.

If you have any questions, please call the Connecticut Department of Public Health Immunization Program at (860) 509-7929.

MLC/CRT:vs/cr