



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**PLEASE COPY THIS FOR ALL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS
IN YOUR PRACTICE**

TO: All Users of State Supplied Vaccines

FROM: Vincent Sacco, MS  **Lynn Sosa, MD** 
Immunization Program Manager Deputy State Epidemiologist

DATE: May 11, 2009

SUBJECT: Pediatric Hepatitis B Vaccine update and change in vaccine ordering policy

The primary purpose of this communication is to update you on the current status of pediatric hepatitis B vaccine supply in the U.S. and a change in the vaccine ordering policy.

Hepatitis B Vaccine Supply

Since February, there have been intermittent pediatric hepatitis B vaccine supply constraints in the United States, with some providers experiencing delays in shipments. Despite these supply constraints, current projections indicate that during the remainder of 2009, sufficient pediatric hepatitis B vaccine will be available to meet demand and maintain the current 3 dose recommended vaccine schedule.

CDC is working closely with the two U.S. manufacturers of pediatric hepatitis B vaccines to understand their supply projections for the remainder of 2009. Merck expects vaccine to be limited. GSK is planning to bring additional vaccine into the U.S. market in September or October to meet the expected demand in the fall and is currently working with CDC to determine vaccine availability to the U.S. market on a month-by-month basis until that time. **Vaccine supply is anticipated to be tightest during the summer months.** Due to these constraints the Immunization Program will be adjusting orders each month to ensure that all providers are receiving approximately a 4-6 week supply of hepatitis B vaccine. For the month of May providers were cut approximately 25 % on their hepatitis B vaccine request due to the reduced amount of vaccine made available to the Immunization Program.

We anticipate having a sufficient supply available to provide 3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine to all infants and toddlers on schedule if providers continue their routine ordering practices for hepatitis B vaccine. Changes in vaccine ordering patterns based on concerns about vaccine supply can worsen our supply situation. Therefore the judicious ordering of pediatric hepatitis B vaccine during the remainder of 2009 will help manage the tight supply anticipated during the summer months and assure that all children are able to receive a full 3 dose series of vaccine.

Change in Vaccine Ordering Policy

Due to the above mentioned supply constraints with hepatitis B vaccine and the continued Hib vaccine shortage, effective June 1, 2009 all providers can return to ordering all vaccines on a monthly basis. Those providers on a bi-monthly or quarterly schedule will now be able to place vaccine orders each month.

As always if you have any questions, please call the Immunization Program at (860) 509-7929.

Phone: (860) 509-7929

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