TO: All Users of State Supplied Vaccines

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SUBJECT: Update: Shortage of Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine and College Immunization Requirements

The primary purpose of this communication is to notify you of the current nationwide shortage of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4) and its impact on Connecticut college entry requirements.

**Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine**
As many of you are aware, there is currently a nationwide shortage of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4). MCV4 is manufactured by Sanofi Pasteur under the brand name Menactra. Since the fall of 2002, vaccination against meningococcal disease has been required for all college students living in on-campus housing. Providers can protect college students with either MCV4 or the meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine, brand name Menomune. Both vaccines are highly efficacious. Providers can order Menomune directly from Sanofi Pasteur but are currently limited to 3 doses per month. Because of rationing of both MCV4 and Menomune by the manufacturer, we have had calls from some of you asking what to do if you have a patient who is going to a college that requires meningococcal vaccine and you are unable to obtain vaccine from either us or the manufacturer to immunize them.

Given the tight supply of both vaccines, the State Immunization Program is taking the following interim steps to maximize your potential to immunize your patients to meet college entrance/residence requirements this fall, and to assure you that if you are not able to vaccinate those patients, the college they are attending will be able to do so.

**Providers currently receiving MCV4 (Menactra) from the Immunization Program for their VFC-eligible population can utilize that supply of vaccine to immunize all their college patients in need, even those with private insurance. The vaccine need not be replaced when your private order arrives but providers should maintain records of all relevant information such as the vaccine lot # and expiration date in their files. As a reminder you will not be able to charge for the vaccine but you can charge up to $21 per dose for an administration fee.**

If you are unable to immunize some college enterers whose colleges require them to be immunized against meningococcal disease, please let the students know that their college should
be able to vaccinate them when they arrive on campus. We anticipate having enough MCV4 and/or polysaccharide vaccine to provide to colleges in Connecticut to assure that all students living in on-campus housing are vaccinated against meningococcal disease.

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