

On June 1, 2005, the Immunization Program starting supplying Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MCV4) for certain VFC-eligible age cohorts. Due to limited availability of the vaccine nationwide, we currently have a set amount of MCV4 for the next 12 month period. Given the current vaccine situation, we ask you to limit your MCV4 orders and vaccine administration to patients according to the following cohort:

VFC-eligible 17-18 year olds who will be going to college and living in dormitories

We ask you to utilize any current state supplied MVC4 on the above listed group and to hold off on routine vaccination of high school freshman, and 11-12 year olds until further notice. You can continue to order MCV4 on a monthly basis and we will try to fill your request as best as possible given the limited supply of vaccine that is currently available. If you have MCV4 vaccine on hand that you will not be able to utilize, please contact our office to facilitate the return of the vaccine to us.

Tdap Vaccine

The Immunization Program began providing Tdap vaccine for VFC-eligible children 11-18 years of age in January of this year. The Tdap product supplied by the Immunizations Program is Boostrix, manufactured by Glaxo SmithKline that is only licensed for use in 11-18 year olds.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) officially recommends a single dose of Tdap vaccine for all individuals 10-64 years of age whenever Td vaccine is indicated for administration and the individual has not already had a dose of Tdap. Tdap vaccine supplied by the Immunization Program should be given routinely to all VFC-eligible adolescents 11-12 years of age in place of Td. Tdap vaccine should also be administered to VFC-eligible adolescents 13-18 years of age who have already received Td vaccine provided that a 5 year interval has elapsed. That interval can be shortened if the need for protection from pertussis outweighs the risk of possible systemic reaction to the vaccine. We have noticed a number of practices continuing to order Td vaccine. Those practices that have not yet made the switch to Tdap are strongly encouraged to do so as soon as possible. Even though the Immunization Program does not provide Tdap for adolescents who have private insurance or for adults 19-64 years of age, practices should be following the official recommendations and privately purchasing Tdap to administer to those patients. The Immunization Program will continue to keep a limited amount of Td on hand for those rare circumstances when Tdap cannot be given, but the amount of Td vaccine an individual practice can order will be strictly monitored.

Changes in Vaccine Packaging

Whenever possible, the Immunization Program will now begin offering vaccines in pre-filled syringes rather than vials, depending on availability of such product from the manufacturer. Please be cognizant that pre-filled syringes take up more space in your refrigerator so you may need to consider whether or not you have appropriate storage capacity with your current unit(s).

We are enclosing the new Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) for Hep A dated 3/21/06, and for Rotavirus dated 4/12/06 as well as an updated listing of vaccines provided through the Immunization Program as of June 2006.

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