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TO: **All Users of State Supplied Vaccines**

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DATE: **August 22, 2007**

SUBJECT: **Update: Revised Recommendations for Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine**

The primary purpose of this communication is to notify you of the newly revised Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations for meningococcal conjugate vaccine and the Immunization Program's ability to support these new recommendations.

Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine

In January 2005, a quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4) was licensed by Sanofi Pasteur under the brand name Menactra. ACIP initially recommended routine vaccination of all 11-12 year olds, persons entering high school, and persons at increased risk for meningococcal disease, including college freshmen living in dormitories. The ACIP recently reviewed updated data on MCV4 use and supply projections as well as the cost-effectiveness of MCV4 vaccination strategies. Based on this new data, **ACIP has expanded its recommendation to include vaccination of all 11-18 year olds with 1 dose of MCV4**.

While the Vaccines for Children (VFC) budget can fully support implementation of the expanded recommendations for VFC-eligible* children, the state budget for vaccines has not increased for the 2007-08 fiscal year. Thus, the Immunization Program will only be able to provide MCV4 as follows:

For VFC-eligible children:

- **All 11-18 year olds**

For children not eligible for VFC, the following cohorts only:

- **All 11-12 year olds**
- **All college freshmen living in dormitories and all high school seniors as they get accepted to college**

Attached is the updated vaccine information statement for MCV4 dated 8/16/07 as well an updated VFC eligibility criteria form. As always if you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Immunization Program at (860) 509-7929.

* VFC-eligible: all children on Medicaid or Husky; children with no health insurance; children vaccinated at federally qualifying health centers; Native Americans or Alaskan Natives