

the leading cause of bacterial meningitis in the United States. Children under two years of age are at highest risk. In Connecticut, data from several sources suggests that vaccination rates among 2 year olds currently are greater than 90%. **Beginning on August 1, 2007**, it will be required for all children 2-59 months of age who enroll in day care, family day care and group day care homes.

Proposed New Day Care, Family and Group Day Care Homes Immunization Requirements

1. Influenza Vaccine

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended in 2003 that all healthy infants 6-23 months of age be vaccinated annually against influenza, with a 2 dose primary series. In 2006, that recommendation was extended to include healthy infants 24-59 months of age. The committee based the new recommendation on recent research that indicates flu causes much of the use of health care and lost work time by parents of children ages two to five years, despite the small number of serious illnesses and deaths caused by the disease amongst those children. According to the committee, about 85 of every 1,000 four-year-old children receive physician care for flu annually. In addition, recent research indicates that flu vaccinations among children could help protect individuals at the highest risk for complications from the disease. *We are considering implementing an influenza vaccine requirement for all children 6-23 months of age beginning in August of 2008 and expanding the age requirement in August of 2009 to include all children age 6 months to 4 years (59 months) of age enrolled in day care, family day care and group day care homes.*

2. Hepatitis A Vaccine

In early 2006, the ACIP recommended universal vaccination against hepatitis A for all children beginning at 12 months of age. The vaccine is administered as a 2-dose series with doses given 6 months apart. Hepatitis A virus is transmitted by the fecal oral route, often from young children with mild or asymptomatic infection. Exposure to infected children in daycare is a risk factor for adult and pediatric infection. Based on the success of universal vaccination of children in the western US and the fact that hepatitis A is now more common in the eastern than western US, recommendations were expanded to include the whole country and to begin with vaccination of 1 year olds. *We are considering implementing a hepatitis A vaccine requirement for all children born on January 1, 2008 or later, who enroll in day care, family day care and group day care homes. This requirement would go into effect in August 2009.* This requirement would also be extended to children born January 1, 2008 or later who attend pre-kindergarten, Head Start, or other school-based early childhood programs.

Proposed New School Immunization Requirements

1. 2nd Dose Varicella Requirement for Kindergarten and 7th Grade School Entry

In late June 2006, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to recommend a second dose of varicella-containing vaccine for children 4 to 6 years of age to improve primary and long-term protection against chickenpox. The ACIP also recommended that children, adolescents, and young adults who previously received a single dose of vaccine be given a second dose of varicella-containing vaccine to assure full and lasting protection and to minimize the potential for sustained transmission in school settings. *We are considering implementing a two-dose requirement for varicella containing vaccine for kindergarten and 7th grade entry beginning in August of 2009.*

2. 2nd Dose Mumps Requirement for Kindergarten and 7th Grade School Entry

Following the resurgence of mumps outbreaks nationally in 2006, the ACIP recommended that children, adolescents, and young adults who previously received a single dose of mumps vaccine be given a second dose of mumps-containing vaccine to assure full and lasting protection and to minimize the potential for sustained transmission in school and college settings. *We will add the two-dose requirement for mumps containing vaccine for kindergarten and 7th grade entry beginning in August of 2009.* In Connecticut, this will largely be a formality, as we have a long-standing 2-dose measles requirement and almost all children have been given MMR.

3. Adolescent Tdap Vaccine Requirement for 7th Graders

In 2006, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended adolescents aged 11-18 years should receive a single dose of Tdap instead of tetanus and diphtheria toxoids vaccine (Td) for booster immunization against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis. The preferred age for receiving the vaccine is 11-12 years. The combined Tdap vaccine protects against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis. Despite substantial success in vaccinating infants against these diseases, coverage is not complete, and protection against pertussis appears to wane after 5 – 10 years. Consequently, a large proportion of reported cases of pertussis in the United States are now found in the adolescent age group, and many outbreaks occur in school settings where adolescents congregate. Further, adolescents are now a reservoir of disease, which can infect infants. *We are considering implementing a Tdap booster requirement for 7th grade entry beginning in August of 2009.*

Proposed New College Immunization Requirements

1. 2nd Dose Mumps Requirement for College Entry

The national mumps outbreak in 2006 in predominately college-age population resulted in the revision of the current ACIP recommendation for mumps prevention to include a second dose of mumps-containing vaccine for young adults who previously received a single dose of mumps vaccine to minimize the potential for sustained transmission in college settings. *We will add the two-dose requirement for mumps containing vaccine for all entering freshman students beginning in August of 2009.* As for 11-12 year olds, this requirement should largely be a formality.

2. 2nd Dose Varicella Requirement for College Entry

In late June 2006, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to recommend a second dose of varicella-containing vaccine for adults who previously received a single dose of vaccine to assure full and lasting protection and to minimize the potential for sustained transmission in college settings. *We are considering implementing a two-dose requirement for varicella containing vaccine for all entering freshman students beginning in August of 2009.*

All of these proposed changes are still in the discussion phase. We expect to have drafted relevant regulatory changes for public comment sometime this summer or early next fall. In the meantime, you should be considering making the necessary adjustments in your practice to meet these anticipated new requirements. Of note, we do not yet have any potential timetable for requiring rotavirus for infants, or meningococcal or human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines for 11-12 year olds

Proposed New Immunization Requirements, June 7, 2007

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