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February 1, 2008

TO: California Health Care Providers

SUBJECT: *Haemophilus influenzae* type b Vaccine Shortage  
Special Immunization Schedule affecting child care entry

A nationwide shortage of the *Haemophilus influenzae* type b vaccine has recently been announced. Because of the anticipated Hib vaccine supply shortage, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in consultation with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and others, issued abbreviated Hib vaccine recommendations, which suspended the booster vaccine dose for most children. The suspension of the booster Hib vaccine recommendation and diminished vaccine supply directly affect California's mandated Hib child care vaccine requirement. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Immunization Branch is coordinating an interim resolution that will allow children uninterrupted admission to child care facilities in California. The CDPH has issued a Special Immunization Schedule<sup>1</sup> that temporarily amends the Hib vaccine requirements for children in California who attend licensed child care and related early-childhood programs.

## 1) RECOMMENDATIONS

### Interim ACIP/AAP/AAFP vaccine recommendations:

Until further notice, providers should defer the administration of the booster Hib vaccine dose usually given at age 12-15 months.

Children in the following high-risk groups should continue to receive the booster dose:

- Children with asplenia, sickle cell disease, immunodeficiency such as HIV infection, and malignant neoplasms
- American Indian/Alaska Native children.

All children should continue to receive the primary series of Hib vaccine. Providers should register and track children who have been deferred from receiving the booster dose.

The complete ACIP recommendations related to this vaccine shortage are available at [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm56d1219a1.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm56d1219a1.htm).

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<sup>1</sup> The California Department of Public Health requested and received approval for a Special Immunization Schedule (requirements), as permitted by 17 CCR § 6045.

## 2) REQUIREMENTS

### **Amended State requirement for children entering licensed child care and related early-childhood programs:**

The CDPH 2008 Special Immunization Schedule includes an amended Hib vaccine requirement for all children who attend licensed child care and related early-childhood programs. Under the Special Schedule, **one dose of Hib vaccine at any age is required for children 15 months to four years, six months**. Required Hib vaccine doses remain unchanged for children younger than 15 months entering or continuing in a program.

The Special Immunization Schedule is in effect beginning immediately and until further notice. We anticipate the special schedule will remain in effect for the year 2008. Copies of the Special Immunization Schedule will be sent to all California licensed child care facilities during February. Facility operators will be encouraged to contact their local health department if they have questions about the change.

Thank you for your efforts to keep California's children immunized during this shortage.

Sincerely,



Howard Backer, MD, MPH  
Chief, Immunization Branch  
California Department of Public Health

Encl: 2008 Special Schedule, Tables 1 and 2

cc: American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Pediatrics, California Region IX  
California Medical Association  
California Local Health Officers  
Immunization Branch Field Representatives  
Immunization Coordinators  
Gloria Merk, Program Administrator, Child Care Program Office,  
California Department of Social Services