

WASHINGTON STATE VACCINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VAC)
RECOMMENDATION FOR USE OF HEPATITIS A VACCINE

As unanimously agreed upon in the January 12, 2006 VAC meeting, the Committee recommends full acceptance of the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practice's (ACIP) provisional recommendations for use of hepatitis A vaccine (HAV) to vaccinate children (October 2005) for Washington State.

Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)

Provisional Recommendations for Hepatitis A Vaccination of Children:

- All children should receive hepatitis A vaccine at 1 year of age (i.e., 12-23 months). Vaccination should be completed according to the recommended schedules and integrated into the routine childhood and adolescent health care visits. Children who are not vaccinated by 2 years of age can be vaccinated at subsequent visits.
- States, counties, and communities with existing hepatitis A vaccination programs for children 2-18 years are encouraged to maintain these programs. In these areas, new efforts focused on routine vaccination of 1 year old children should enhance, not replace, ongoing programs directed at a broader population of children.
- In areas without existing hepatitis A vaccination programs, catch-up vaccination of unvaccinated children aged 2-18 years can be considered. Such programs might especially be warranted in the context of rising incidence or ongoing outbreaks among children or adolescents.

Note existing hepatitis A vaccination recommendations for groups at increased risk remain unchanged.