



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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August 3, 2009

Dear Childcare Centers and Preschools:

I am writing to you about upcoming changes to child care and preschool immunization requirements for *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib).

In 2008, the Washington State Board of Health (SBOH) made temporary changes to our state laws for Hib immunization requirements because of a nationally declared vaccine shortage. Since February 2008, children attending child care or preschool in Washington have not been required to have a final “booster” dose of Hib vaccine. (That booster is normally given between 12 through 15 months of age.) Child care centers and preschools were also asked to keep track of any child who did not receive that final booster dose and to consider that child’s immunization status as “conditional” until the shortage was resolved.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently announced there is enough Hib vaccine supply to begin giving the booster dose again. Beginning on July 1, 2009, providers have been instructed to give the booster dose of Hib vaccine to children at the routinely recommended age of 12 to 15 months. Children between 16 and 59 months who still need a booster dose should get one at their next routinely scheduled doctor visit.

Now that the Hib supply has improved enough to require a booster dose, state law allows child care centers and preschools 90 days to ensure all children have received their previously suspended booster dose requirement. This means that by September 28, 2009, any eligible child between the ages of 12 and 15 months will again be required to have a booster dose of Hib vaccine in order to attend your facility. Any eligible child of this age without a booster dose of Hib vaccine after September 28, 2009 will be out of compliance with state law.

You may still have children above 15 months of age at your facility who are missing the final booster dose because of the shortage. These children will not be immediately required to have a booster in order to attend your facility. Instead, they should be allowed to remain in conditional status until September 28, 2010. This is to provide enough time for them to receive the vaccination at their next scheduled visit with their health care provider.

Detailed information about these changes is contained in the enclosed implementation plan. For more information, including copies of the enclosures, please go to the Department of Health’s website at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/Immunize/schools/vaccine.htm>

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If you still have questions or concerns, please contact Deborah Allwes, Public Health Nurse Consultant, at 360.236.3760 or deborah.allwes@doh.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maxine Hayes, MD, MPH". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a long, sweeping tail.

Maxine Hayes, MD, MPH
State Health Officer

Enclosures: Implementation Plan for Hib Vaccine Reinstatement

cc: Deborah Allwes, Department of Health
Bette Hyde, Department of Early Learning

X
X
Date
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bcc: Debbie Carlson, Department of Health
Janna Bardi, Department of Health