



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
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February 21, 2008

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Dr. Diana Yu, SBOH Member

SUBJECT: BRIEFING ON HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZAE TYPE B (HIB) VACCINE SHORTAGE AND REVIEW OF PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN, WAC 246-100-166

Background and Summary

WAC 246-100-166 requires that children entering child care centers be vaccinated with immunizing agents against Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib) disease unless the child is granted conditional status or claims an exemption. The rule specifies that the vaccine must have been administered at ages and intervals consistent with national immunization guidelines published by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

In December 2007, a national Hib vaccine shortage was declared in the United States. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in consultation with the ACIP, issued a recommendation to defer the fourth dose, or booster dose, of this series except in some specified exceptional cases. In January 2008, the CDC reduced its Hib allocation to Washington State to provide only enough vaccine for the first three doses and exceptional cases. According to the Department of Health (DOH) it is hard to predict how long this shortage will last, but it could be as long as a year.

According to WAC 246-100-166, in shortage situations DOH may develop guidelines that waive or modify immunization requirements. The DOH implementation plan must reflect best available medical research as indicated by the ACIP or a state health officer recommendation, identify the specific vaccine-preventable disease or immunizing agent, identify the specific cohort of children affected by age or grade, and be limited in duration. The Board needs to review and approve the DOH proposal before it can go into affect.

Today you will have a chance to learn more about the effects of the Hib vaccine shortage and the department's proposal to address the requirement for the fourth dose of Hib during the shortage. At our March meeting, I would like to discuss options for how the Board might best respond to such shortages in the future.

Recommended Board Action

The Board may choose to consider, amend if necessary, and adopt the following motion:

Motion 1: The Board approves the proposed DOH implementation plan for Hib vaccine during the current shortage.