

WAC 246-100-166

Proposed Implementation Plan for Hib Vaccine Shortage for Child Care and Preschools

Effective February 21, 2008



Background

On December 13, 2007, the pharmaceutical company Merck issued a voluntary recall and suspension of production of two vaccines for *Haemophilus influenzae type b* (Hib): PedvaxHIB[®] and Comvax[®]. On December 19, 2007, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in consultation with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), posted its recommendations for a temporary reduction of Hib vaccination on the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) website. The ACIP published its recommendations in MMWR 2007; 56(50):1318-20.

These temporary ACIP recommendations reduce the Hib series by deferring the booster dose routinely recommended given between ages 12 through 15 months. In January 2008, the CDC decreased its allocation of Hib vaccine to each state in the nation to only allow for the reduced schedule. The CDC allowed the following exceptions:

Health care providers may continue the full four dose series for children who are Native American or Alaskan Native or children with the following high risk conditions: asplenia; sickle cell disease; human immunodeficiency virus infection and other immunodeficiency syndromes; and malignant neoplasms.

The Washington State Board of Health (SBOH) immunization rules, WAC 246-100-166, require the age appropriate full vaccination of Hib for children to attend child care or preschool. To prevent the unwanted circumstance of children claiming exemptions or being excluded due to the current shortage of Hib vaccine, the department recommends the SBOH suspend the current Hib vaccination requirements and approve a temporary adjustment of the Hib immunization requirement.

Notice to Child Care and Preschools

The State Health Officer will provide written notice to all child care and preschools in the state. The Department will work with partner organizations to further distribute this notice through various professional list serves. The department will also post this notice on its website at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/Immunize/schools/vaccine.htm>.

The notice will include an explanation, as described in this document, of the temporary Hib child care and preschool entry requirements due to the national shortage, its duration, and the procedures for reinstatement of the original Hib child care and preschool requirements once the shortage is over.

Temporary Requirements For Child Care/Preschool Entry

For the duration of the Hib vaccine shortage, the booster dose routinely recommended for ages 12 to 15 months for vaccination against Hib is deferred. The table below describes the temporary adjustment of the implementation plan for this vaccine specific to two vaccine products: ActHIB (a 4 dose series); and PedvaxHIB (a 3 dose series). The ActHIB product has been purchased and distributed by the department for several years. Most children in Washington have received the ActHIB product.

Children entering child care or preschool during this time will be considered conditional and allowed attendance upon receiving the doses detailed in the following table. The department will supply child

cares and preschools with the appropriate form to document and track the conditional status of each child, including an indication of when a child's conditional status will end. The number of doses a child is to receive will depend on the age at which the child began the vaccination series and their current age.

Please refer children to their health care provider if there is a question about the number of doses needed.

Detailed Interim Hib Schedule During Shortage			
Vaccine Product	Age at 1st Dose (Months)	Required Doses	12-15 Month Booster
ActHIB (sanofi pasteur)	2-6	3 doses (2 months apart)	Defer until shortage resolved
	7-11	2 doses (2 months apart)	Defer until shortage resolved
	12-14	1 dose	Defer until shortage resolved
	15-59	1 dose	No further dose needed even after the shortage
PedvaxHIB (Merck)	2-6	2 doses (2 months apart)	Defer until shortage resolved
	7-11	2 doses (2 months apart)	Defer until shortage resolved
	12-14	1 dose	No further dose needed even after the shortage
	15-59	1 dose	No further dose needed even after the shortage

Limited Duration of Temporary Requirements

The temporary Hib requirements for child care and preschool entry will cease to be effective the day the State Health Officer declares the vaccine shortage over. The CDC anticipates this shortage to last through the 2008 calendar year.

Procedure for the Reinstatement of Suspended Hib Requirements

After the last day of the shortage, children will have 90 days to receive a final booster dose (previously deferred), if needed. During this time period children without an exemption will still be considered conditional. Child cares are to communicate with parents the procedures for conditional status to meet the 90 day grace period and avoid exemption. Any child without an exemption not receiving a required booster after this timeframe will be considered noncompliant.

The State Health Officer will send a second written notice to all child care and preschools, at the earliest date possible, identifying the last day of the shortage and explaining the reinstatement procedures. The department will work with partner organizations to further distribute this notice through various professional list serves. The department will also post this notice on its website at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/Immunize/schools/vaccine.htm>.