



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JANET OLSZEWSKI
DIRECTOR

May 26, 2009

Dear Local Health Officers and Medical Directors:

As you may be aware on December 13, 2007, the vaccine manufacturer Merck announced a voluntary recall of two Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) containing vaccines (PedvaxHIB® and Comvax®). This precautionary recall was instituted as Merck was unable to assure the sterility of certain manufacturing equipment. Merck also during this period suspended production of conjugate vaccines containing Hib. Currently Merck does not expect to resume distribution of these vaccines until mid to late 2009.

In 2008, to address the reduction in available doses of Hib containing vaccines the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (in consultation with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the American Academy of Family Physicians and the American Academy of Pediatrics) recommended that providers temporarily defer administering routine Hib booster doses to children between 12 – 15 months of age. However, an exception to this recommendation was provided for children with specific high risk conditions. It was further recommended that providers register and track children who were not provided the booster dose, for later vaccination recall when the Hib vaccine supply increases. Due to the ongoing reduction in Hib supply the CDC recommends that the above measures be continued.

Due to the continuing difficulty in determining children who are eligible to receive a booster dose of Hib containing vaccine and identification of those children with high-risk conditions, the Department's modification of childcare rules will be continued. Therefore, effective the date of signature of this document, childcare requirements regarding completion of all doses of Hib containing vaccines are suspended for the 2009 reporting year.

If you or your staff has questions regarding the above policy affecting the Hib booster dose, please contact your field representative or the Division of Immunization at 517-335-8159.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Janet Olszewski'.

Janet Olszewski
Director

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CC: Ismael Ahmed, Director, Department of Human Services
James Sinnamon, Department of Human Services, Office of Day Care Licensing
Bob Swanson, Director, Division of Immunization
IAP/Immunization Coordinators