



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Thomas A. Farley, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

*** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ALL PEDIATRIC, FAMILY PRACTICE AND OFFICE STAFF ***

December 21, 2009

Dear Colleague:

Thank you for all of your efforts to immunize the community against H1N1 influenza. While we know that these efforts have been a priority in the past weeks, we would like to remind you about a few other important immunization issues.

Monovalent *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) vaccine, Hiberix[®], (GlaxoSmithKline), which is licensed for use as a booster dose of Hib for children 15 months through 4 years of age, is available to order through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. With the addition of Hiberix to the other available Hib-containing vaccines, all children should be able to receive a complete, age-appropriate Hib vaccine series:

- All infants should receive their primary Hib series at ages 2, 4, and 6 months, and a booster dose on time at 12 through 15 months of age.
- Older children for whom the booster dose was deferred should receive their Hib booster dose.

A review of immunizations reported to the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) indicates that many infants and toddlers have not received the full age-appropriate series of Hib vaccine as recommended. The integration of Hiberix into the vaccine schedule will assist in protecting these children. You can obtain a recall list of children in your practice who are due for Hib vaccination by sending an email request to cir@health.nyc.gov.

On December 1, 2009, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) updated recommendations for use of quadrivalent human papillomavirus vaccine, HPV4 (Gardasil[®]) vaccine, permitting use of this quadrivalent vaccine in males ages 9 through 26 years to reduce their likelihood of acquiring genital warts. Ideally, vaccine should be administered before potential exposure to HPV through sexual contact. VFC-eligible male patients ages 9 through 18 years may now receive HPV4. Please be aware that this is a permissive use of HPV4 in males; while vaccine is available through VFC, commercial insurance coverage may be variable. In addition, the recently licensed bivalent HPV vaccine (HPV2, Cervarix[®], GlaxoSmithKline) was recommended for routine use in females 9 through 26 years of age for the prevention of cervical cancers and pre-cancers. This bivalent vaccine is not yet available through the VFC program. The provisional recommendations for the use of HPV vaccines are available at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/provisional/downloads/hpv-vac-dec2009-508.pdf

All doses of any vaccine administered to children <19 years of age in New York City must be reported to the CIR. For questions about the CIR, please call 212-676-2323. For questions related to vaccine supply, please contact the VFC Program at 212-447-8175. For professional or technical questions, please call the Bureau of Immunization at 212-676-2259.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jane R. Zucker'.

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Immunization