



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 ****

September 21, 2009

Dear Colleague:

We are pleased to inform you that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has recently approved a new *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) vaccine, Hiberix®, manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline, for use as a booster dose of Hib for children 15 months through 4 years of age. The addition of this product will increase Hib vaccine supply and help ensure that all children younger than 5 years of age receive a complete Hib vaccine series. Hiberix is now available for order through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program and from the manufacturer; first doses are anticipated to be delivered in early October.

Earlier this summer we informed you that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in consultation with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), recommended reinstatement of the booster dose of Hib vaccine for all children 12 through 15 months of age. At this time:

- 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 at the next routinely scheduled visit or medical encounter.
- Mass recall of children for catch-up vaccination with Hib booster is not yet recommended because the vaccine supply will not support such activity.

Analysis of Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) data indicate a 7.5% difference in coverage between 3 doses of DTaP and 3 doses of Hib among children 7 to 19 months of age. This difference indicates that many infants have not received the full 3-dose primary series of Hib vaccine as was recommended during the shortage. The Health Department urges you to ensure that all children are fully protected against invasive Hib disease by receiving the complete, age-appropriate series of Hib vaccine.

For questions related to vaccine supply, please contact the VFC Program at 212-447-8175 or, for those providers who purchase vaccine, contact GlaxoSmithKline at 866-GSK-VACC (866-475-8222). 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 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

Reminder: Effective September 15, all providers currently enrolled in the VFC Program will be required to complete a one page annual reenrollment by December 31st of each year. The online form can be accessed under the VFC icon after log-in to the CIR. For questions on accessing the enrollment form, please call the CIR at 212-676-2323.