

#### Important Notice from the VFC Program Regarding Hib Vaccine

Last week, the CDC released the following statement:

*“We want to let you know that beginning July 1, 2009, CDC reinstated the Hib booster dose for children 12 through 15 months. That is, children who are aged 12 through 15 months should receive the booster dose on time. The temporary recommendation to defer the Hib booster dose in healthy children, which began December 2007 because of a shortage of Hib vaccine, is no longer in effect. Sanofi Pasteur has increased the number of Hib vaccine doses available and providers should now be able to order some additional doses of Hib vaccine each month. However, the additional vaccine being made available is **not** sufficient to support an active recall of all children for whom the booster dose has been deferred. Rather, older children for whom the booster dose was previously deferred should receive the dose at the next routinely scheduled visit or medical encounter.”*

The Georgia VFC Program has received monthly Hib vaccine allocations [monovalent (ActHib<sup>®</sup>) and combination (Pentacel<sup>®</sup>) vaccine] as determined by the CDC. The amount of vaccine available to the VFC Program is finite and as such, has required careful management by VFC to ensure that the monthly supply is not exhausted.

**VFC providers will begin seeing increased Pentacel shipments this month** and may make additional requests. ActHib<sup>®</sup> shipments will not increase and additional requests for ActHib<sup>®</sup> cannot be met since the CDC has not allocated additional ActHib<sup>®</sup> vaccine to VFC Programs.

Providers are urged to be extremely prudent in reinstating the booster dose of vaccine, per the underlined section above. Remember, there is not sufficient vaccine to support reminder/recall efforts.

As per MMWR recommendations, *“Children who need the Hib booster and who already have received 4 doses of DTaP should receive monovalent Hib vaccine (ActHIB) as their Hib booster dose. However, if DTaP-IPV/Hib (Pentacel) is the only Hib-containing vaccine available, this combination product can be used to complete the series of Hib vaccination, even if the child already has received all the necessary doses of DTaP and IPV.”* Link to the full MMWR at: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5824a5.htm>

#### Change In VFC Vaccine Shipping Containers

McKesson will begin shipping VFC vaccine orders in a new shipping container. This new container, approved by CDC, has been thoroughly tested in the laboratory and under actual shipping conditions. Implementation of the new containers will be phased in over the next few months.

The biggest change is that VFC providers will no longer return containers to McKesson for recycling/reuse and the boxes containing VFC vaccines will no longer have pre-printed return address labels. Providers should keep one or two containers for storage/transportation in the event of a power failure or to return expired or non-viable vaccine to McKesson. Should this need arise, contact McKesson Customer Service at 1-877-822-7746 for a representative to send a return label and to schedule a pick up.

If additional information is needed please contact a VFC staff member at 404-657-5013 or the Vaccine Logistics Coordinator at 404-657-3174.

*For questions or concerns regarding this blastfax or any other immunization information, please contact the Chapter's Immunization Coordinator, Mike Chaney at (404) 881-5094 or [mchaney@gaaap.org](mailto:mchaney@gaaap.org).*