



## TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

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COMMISSIONER

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May 30, 2014

Dear Texas Vaccines For Children Provider,

Please be aware that Sanofi Pasteur's Menactra® (Meningococcal (Groups A, C, Y and W-135) Polysaccharide Diphtheria Toxoid Conjugate Vaccine) doses currently being sent from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) distribution depots are likely to have expiration dates between four to seven months for the next several months. The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Immunization Branch is recommending for those providers who order Menactra® to place smaller and more frequent orders until the expiration date returns to a year or greater.

As of June 1, 2014, Merck is making some adjustments to their delivery schedule for VARIVAX® (Varicella Virus Vaccine Live). Providers may now receive direct ship vaccine shipments on any day of the week for which open hours are shown in the Electronic Vaccine Inventory (EVI) system. Specifically, you may receive shipments on Monday and Tuesday, which is a change from the current shipment schedule of Wednesday through Friday. **Please ensure your days and hours of operation are up to date and correct in EVI.**

Additionally, please be advised that Sanofi Pasteur's Pentacel® [Diphtheria and Tetanus Toxoids and Acellular Pertussis Adsorbed, *Haemophilus influenzae* type b, and Inactivated Poliovirus Vaccine] vaccine is no longer under allocation by the CDC. However, the Texas Vaccines For Children (TVFC) Program will not allow providers to transfer existing single antigen vaccines to other TVFC providers in favor of ordering increased amounts of Pentacel®. You must continue to use your existing inventory of all products to ensure that doses with shorter expiration dates are used first and not at risk of expiring. Please carefully consider your population profiles, current inventories, projected usage, and implementation plan before ordering Pentacel® in EVI.

Thank you for your participation in the Texas Vaccines For Children Program. If you have any questions please contact your DSHS Health Service Region or Local Health Department.

### Regional Contact Phone Numbers

PINS Beginning With	Health Service Region	Phone Number
01	HSR 1	806-783-6416
02	HSR 2	325-795-5660
03	HSR 3	817-264-4793
04 or 05 not in Hardin, Jefferson or Orange Counties	HSR 4/5N	903-533-5310
05 in Hardin, Jefferson or Orange Counties or 06 or 25	HSR 6/5S	713-767-3410
07	HSR 7	254-778-6744
08 or 00	HSR 8	210-949-2067
09	HSR 9	432-571-4132
10	HSR 10	915-834-7924
11	HSR 11	956-421-5552

Sincerely,



Saroj Rai, PhD  
Manager  
Immunization Branch