



Memorandum

TO: Regional Directors, Health Service Regions
Regional Immunization Program Managers, Health Service Regions
Health Department Directors, Local Health Departments
Immunization Program Managers, Local Health Departments

FROM: Karen Hess, Manager
Vaccine Services Group 

THRU: Jack C. Sims, Manager
Immunization Branch  1-30-08

DATE: January 30, 2008

SUBJECT: Texas Vaccines for Children Program:
Haemophilus influenzae type b vaccine (Hib) Orders Reduced to 30-Day Supply

On December 20, 2007, the Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) Program released a memo announcing that the Advisory Council on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) had deferred the booster dose of *Haemophilus influenzae* type b vaccine (Hib) at age 12–15 months because one of the two manufacturers was temporarily unable to produce the vaccine. It now appears that the Hib vaccine shortage in the United States is worse than predicted and vaccine supplies nationwide are less than early estimates indicated.

In order to ensure that all providers have access to this vaccine, TVFC providers must immediately limit Hib orders to a 30-day supply. Regardless of tiering (monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly), providers needing Hib vaccine monthly should order monthly.

During December and January, some providers' Hib orders were cancelled by the CDC. Providers who placed orders during these two months and have not yet received vaccine, can expect to receive approximately 40 percent of the amount of vaccine ordered. DSHS has requested a list of these orders and will resubmit in February at the reduced number of doses.

The CDC has begun allocating doses of Hib to states, and the Texas allotment for February will fall short of the anticipated need due to the orders cancelled in previous months. The reduction of orders placed in December and January along with the 30-day supply requirement will help to stretch the state's Hib supply over the next few months until nationwide supplies recover.

DSHS is committed to keeping a safety net of vaccines available at all times; however our safety net vaccine supply is almost exhausted. We will attempt to maintain small amounts of vaccine to assist providers who run completely out of vaccine, but cannot guarantee that vaccine will be available through the back-up supply.

Many states are already in the same situation as Texas and others will be soon. Given the anticipated lack of vaccine across the nation, the CDC may revisit the interim recommendation to defer the fourth dose to include deferral of additional doses. If this happens, or if supplies improve, providers will be notified regarding TVFC protocol.

Local Health Departments (LHD) and Health Service Regions (HSR) may be contacting providers regarding a reduction in maximum stock levels. If you have questions, please contact your LHD or HSR representative, or TVFC consultant.