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Michael F. Easley, Governor

Dempsey Benton, Secretary

September 14, 2007

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Universal Childhood Vaccine Distribution Program (UCVDP) Providers

**FROM:** Beth Rowe-West, RN, BSN, Head  
Immunization Branch

**SUBJECT:** Revised Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to Vaccinate All Persons Aged 11—18 Years with Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine

The purpose of this memo is to announce the revised recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) regarding meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4). In May 2005, ACIP recommended routine vaccination with one dose of MCV4 for persons 11—12 years of age, persons entering high school (i.e., approximately 15 years of age) if not previously vaccinated with MCV4, and other persons at increased risk for meningococcal disease, including college freshmen living in dormitories.

In June 2007, ACIP revised its recommendations to include routine vaccination of all persons 11—18 years of age with one dose of MCV4 at the earliest opportunity. Persons 11—12 years of age should be routinely vaccinated at the 11—12 year health-care visit as recommended by ACIP. The ACIP goal is routine vaccination of all adolescents with MCV4 beginning at age 11 years. In addition, because the incidence of meningococcal disease increases during adolescence, health-care providers should vaccinate previously unvaccinated persons 11—18 years of age with MCV4 at the earliest possible health-care visit. College freshmen living in dormitories are at increased risk for meningococcal disease and should be vaccinated with MCV4 before college entry if they have not been vaccinated previously. For the full text of the revised recommendations, go to:

[http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5631a3.htm?s\\_cid=mm5631a3\\_e](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5631a3.htm?s_cid=mm5631a3_e)

Effective immediately, MCV4 is available through UCVDP for Vaccines for Children (VFC) eligible persons 11—18 years of age. As defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), children who meet at least one of the following criteria are eligible for VFC vaccine:

- **Medicaid enrolled** - a child who is eligible or enrolled in the Medicaid program.
- **Uninsured** - a child who has no medical insurance coverage.
- **American Indian or Alaskan Native** - as defined by the Indian Health Service Act.
- **Underinsured** - a child whose health insurance benefit plan does not cover the full cost of vaccinations and they receive immunizations at a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) or Rural Health Center (RHC).

The revised MCV4 vaccine information statement (VIS) may be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/downloads/vis-mening.pdf>

Questions or concerns should be addressed to your Regional Immunization Nurse (RIN) or the Central Office at 919-707-5550.

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