



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health
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Michael F. Easley, Governor
Dempsey Benton, Secretary

Leah Devlin, DDS, MPH
State Health Director

January 18, 2008

TO: Universal Childhood Vaccine Distribution Program (UCVDP) Participants
Child Care Consultants

FROM: Leah Devlin, DDS, MPH
State Health Director

SUBJECT: Temporary Suspension of Requirements for Haemophilus Influenzae Type B (Hib) Vaccine

The purpose of this memo is to inform you of a temporary suspension of the requirement for a booster dose of Hib vaccine on or after the age of 12 months, until further notice. According to 10A NCAC 41A.0401, the State Health Director may temporarily suspend any portion of the requirements for immunization rules due to emergency conditions, such as the unavailability of vaccine. There is currently a shortage of Hib vaccine caused by manufacturing issues, and it is not likely to be resolved for at least several months.

Children are still required to receive their primary series of Hib vaccine. The primary series is a two- or three-dose series given at 2, 4, and 6 months of age. The decision about whether the child should receive a two- or three-dose series depends on the vaccine product used. Please note the following:

Children receiving Pedvax HIB at 2 months and 4 months of age	primary series complete; no booster during the suspension <i>unless high-risk</i>
Children receiving Pedvax HIB at 2 months of age and ActHIB at 4 months of age	one more dose of ActHIB at 6 months to complete primary series; no booster during the suspension <i>unless high risk</i>
Children receiving all doses ActHIB	2; 4; and 6 months to complete the primary series, no booster during the suspension <i>unless high risk</i>

Please note that some children with high-risk medical conditions or those in certain populations may continue to receive Hib boosters. The decision to administer a booster dose should be made by the child's physician based on the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention which can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5650a4.htm> (MMWR Weekly December 21, 2007 / 56(50);1318-1320). Although high risk children may still receive the Hib booster, the requirement for this dose has still been temporarily suspended for all children.

We encourage child care consultants to share this information with child care providers.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the regional nurse consultant serving your region, or contact the Immunization Branch at 919-707-5570.

Cc: SMT RDNs Steve Shore Sharon Ware CO RICs Maclyn Powell Jessica Gerdes

