



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

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BETH LOVETTE • MPH, BSN, RN – Acting Director,  
Division of Public Health

October 23, 2018

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** College/University Health Administrators

**FROM:** Wendy Holmes, R.N., Head *WH*  
North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP)

**SUBJECT: Use of (Heplisav-B®) Hepatitis-B Vaccine and Varicella Vaccine Requirements for College and Universities**

The purpose of this memo is to notify college and university health administrators of the availability to use Heplisav-B® to meet college entry requirements for Hepatitis B and to remind staff to assess varicella status for incoming students.

On April 20, 2018, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) published the final recommendations for the use of Heplisav-B (HepB-CpG), a yeast-derived vaccine prepared with a novel adjuvant, administered as a 2-dose series (0, 1 month) for use in persons aged ≥18 years of age. These recommendations provide a two-dose option for individuals to meet the North Carolina Administrative Code (10A NCAC 41A .0401), dosage and age requirement for Hepatitis-B vaccine series in place of the three doses of Hepatitis B vaccine which are written in the immunization rules for individuals born on or after July 1, 1994. Upon consultation with the NC Division of Public Health's Chief Legal Counsel, the following guidance has been issued regarding Heplisav-B®:

Individuals 18 years of age and older previously unvaccinated or those with an incomplete vaccine history who subsequently receive two doses of Heplisav-B® vaccine administered at least four weeks apart **meet the immunization dosage requirement for Hepatitis B vaccine and may attend college.** When feasible, the same manufacturer's vaccine should be used to complete the series. However, vaccination should not be deferred when the manufacturer of the previously administered vaccine is unknown or when vaccine from the same manufacturer is unavailable.

For more information on this product, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/vacc-updates/heplisav-b.html>.

Please also be aware that the cohort of children born on or after April 1, 2001 will begin reaching college age in 2019. These individuals are required to be vaccinated with at least one dose of varicella vaccine. Staff will need to incorporate varicella as part of their assessment of immunization records for compliance with 10A NCA 41A .0401. In lieu of the vaccine, students can provide laboratory confirmation of varicella disease immunity, documented serological testing for a protective antibody titer, or documentation from a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant verifying history of disease. For more information on NC vaccine requirements, visit <https://www.immunize.nc.gov/schools/ncruleslaws.htm>.

Thank you for your role in ensuring college and university students in NC are protected against vaccine preventable diseases.

**NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • Division of Public Health, Immunization Branch**

LOCATION: 5601 Six Forks Rd, Building 2, Raleigh, NC 27609  
MAILING ADDRESS: 1917 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1917  
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-707-5550 • FAX: 919-870-4824

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