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MENINGOCOCCAL CONJUGATE VACCINE (MCV4, MENACTRA™) SHORTAGE

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In a recent Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) Dispatch, CDC released new vaccination recommendations for meningococcal conjugate vaccine Meningococcal Conjugate (MCV4) in response to the continued vaccine shortage.¹

CDC, in consultation with ACIP, the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Family Physicians, American College Health Association, and Society for Adolescent Medicine, recommends that providers vaccinate adolescents at high school entry who have not previously received MCV4 and college freshmen living in dormitories. Current supply projections from Sanofi Pasteur suggest that enough MCV4 will be available to meet vaccine demand for these groups. ***Until further notice, administration of MCV4 to persons aged 11-12 years should be deferred.*** If possible, providers should track persons aged 11-12 years for whom MCV4 has been deferred and recall them for vaccination when supply improves.

In response to the limited supply of MCV4, the Philadelphia Vaccines For Children (VFC) program will need to reduce the amount of MCV4 distributed to VFC providers. Distribution will be based on historical ordering and provider profile data. In response to the shortage, VFC program eligibility recommendations have changed to reflect the new priority recommendations. As of this notification, MCV4 will be provided through the VFC Program for the following:

- ◆ **Children aged 11-18 years with anatomic or functional asplenia**
- ◆ **Children aged 11-18 years with terminal complement deficiencies**
- ◆ **Adolescents at high school entry who have not previously received MCV4**
- ◆ **College freshman aged ≤ 18 years who will be living in dormitories**

If you have MCV4 vaccine that you do not anticipate using, please fax a Short-dated VFC Vaccine Report Form to Christine Wilson at 215-685-6806. VFC will schedule a driver to pick up your vaccine and redistribute to another provider who is in need of MCV4. If you have questions concerning MCV4 vaccine availability through the Philadelphia Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program, please call Veronica Alvarez, VFC Program Coordinator, at 215-685-6498.

Vaccine acquired through the VFC program is to be used in VFC eligible patients only. Adults, regardless of insurance coverage, and privately insured children are not eligible to receive VFC vaccines.

¹ CDC. Limited supply of meningococcal conjugate vaccine, recommendation to defer vaccination of persons aged 11-12 years. MMWR Dispatch 55: May 19, 2006.