



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
**DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES**

Nicholas A. Toumpas  
Acting Commissioner

29 HAZEN DRIVE, CONCORD, NH 03301-6504  
603-271-4463 1-800-852-3345 Ext. 4463  
Fax: 603-271-4932 TDD Access: 1-800-735-2964

Mary Ann Cooney  
Director

**DATE:** December 21, 2007

**TO:** Physicians, Infection Control Practitioners, Hospital Emergency Departments,  
and DHHS Outbreak Team

**FROM:** Jose T. Montero, MD, NH State Epidemiologist

**SUBJECT:** Haemophilus Influenzae vaccine (Hib) basic interim recommended schedule

Message Type: Health Alert

Status: Actual

Severity: Moderate

Sensitive: No

Jurisdiction: State

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has issued interim recommendations for the administration of Hib vaccine after Merck's recall of certain lots of Hib vaccine (Trade names PedvaxHib and COMVAX).

Based on these recommendations, the NH Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS) recommends that clinicians:

- Defer administering the routine Hib vaccine booster administered at age 12-15 months except for specified high-risk groups.
- Certain children at increased risk for Hib disease, including children with asplenia, sickle cell disease, human immunodeficiency virus infection, and certain other immunodeficiency syndromes, and malignant neoplasms should continue to receive the full routinely recommended schedule including the 12-15 month booster dose.
- American Indian (AI) and Alaskan Native (AN) children should also continue to receive the full routinely recommended schedule including the 12-15 month booster dose.
- Sanofi's ActHIB vaccine, the Hib vaccine that is supplied by the New Hampshire Immunization Program (NHIP), will be in limited supply for the foreseeable future.

- The NHIP asks that NH health care professionals implement these recommendations immediately.
- The NHIP will review, and may reduce, a provider's Hib vaccine orders until the Hib vaccine supply has returned to sustainable levels.

Details may be found in the attached MMWR publication or at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm56d1219a1.htm> .

A copy of these recommendations and the December 13, 2007 Hib Recall Health Alert is available on the NHIP website at <http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/IMMUNIZATION/alerts.htm>

Please direct questions to the NHIP at 603.271.4482. Thank you.

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#### CATEGORIES OF HEALTH ALERT NETWORK (HAN) MESSAGES:

##### Message Type:

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not warrant immediate action

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation

Cancel: Prior communications alert has been canceled

Error: Prior alert or communication has been retracted

##### Status:

Actual Communication or alert refers to a live event

Exercise Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert

Test: Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded

##### Severity:

Extreme: Extraordinary threat to life or property

Severe: Significant threat to life or property

Moderate: Possible threat to life or property

Minor: Minimal threat to life or property

Unknown: Unknown threat to life or property

##### Sensitive:

Yes: Indicates sensitive content is included

No: Indicates non-sensitive content is included

##### Jurisdiction:

National: Indicates national recipients

State: Indicates state recipients

Territorial: Indicates territorial recipients

Local: Indicates local recipients

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