

# Vaccine Highlights

## Recommendations, schedules, and more

Editor's note: The information in "Vaccine Highlights" is current as of June 22, 2009.

### Novel H1N1 influenza

Because novel H1N1 influenza is a complex, rapidly emerging health concern, the Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) will not attempt to summarize H1N1 influenza developments in the Vaccine Highlights section of *Needle Tips*. Instead, on page 1 of this issue, we've listed links to excellent sources of up-to-date novel H1N1 influenza information. Please check these sources regularly to stay informed.

### The next ACIP meetings

A committee of 15 national experts, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) advises CDC on the appropriate use of vaccines. ACIP meets three times a year in Atlanta; meetings are open to the public. The next meetings will be held on June 24–26 and Oct. 21–22. For more information, including details about registration procedures, visit [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/acip](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/acip).

ACIP periodically issues public health recommendations on the use of vaccines. Clinicians who vaccinate should have a current set for reference. Published in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*, ACIP recommendations are easily available. Here are sources:

- Download them from links on IAC's website: [www.immunize.org/acip](http://www.immunize.org/acip).
- Download them from CDC's website: [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/acip-list.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/acip-list.htm).
- Call the CDC-INFO Contact Center: (800) CDC-INFO [(800) 232-4636].

### Recently published ACIP recommendations:

"Prevention of Rotavirus Gastroenteritis among Infants and Children" (2/6/09)

### Immunization schedules

On Jan. 2, CDC published "Recommended Immunization Schedules for Persons Aged 0 Through 18 Years—U.S., 2009." Issued jointly by ACIP,

AAP, and AAFP, it is available in English and Spanish at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/child-schedule.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/child-schedule.htm). *Needle Tips* has a reformatted version on pages 11–13. To learn about or order IAC's laminated 6-page color version of the child/teen schedule, go to [www.immunize.org/shop/schedule\\_child.asp](http://www.immunize.org/shop/schedule_child.asp).

On Jan. 9, CDC published "Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule—U.S., 2009." Issued jointly by ACIP, AAFP, ACOG, and ACP, it is available in English and Spanish at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/adult-schedule.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/adult-schedule.htm). *Needle Tips* has a reformatted version on pages 14–16. To learn about or order IAC's laminated 6-page color version of the adult schedule, go to [www.immunize.org/shop/schedule\\_adult.asp](http://www.immunize.org/shop/schedule_adult.asp).

### Pneumococcal news

On June 9, CDC issued "Interim guidance for use of 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine during novel influenza A (H1N1) outbreak." It reminds healthcare professionals that during this H1N1 influenza outbreak, it is particularly important to administer PPSV vaccine to all the groups for whom vaccination is recommended. It also discusses how to use pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV). To access the interim guidance, go to [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/ppsv\\_h1n1.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/ppsv_h1n1.htm).

On Dec. 8, 2008, ACIP issued provisional recommendations for the use of PPSV in people ages 19–64 who smoke cigarettes or have asthma. The provisional recommendations are available at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/provisional](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/provisional).

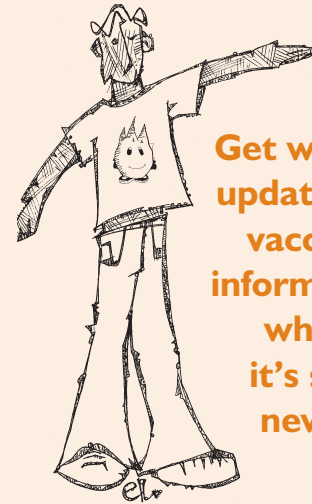
On April 16, CDC issued a new VIS for PPSV reflecting the expanded recommendations. To access it, go to [www.immunize.org/vis/pneum3.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/vis/pneum3.pdf). Several translations of this new PPSV VIS are available at [www.immunize.org/vis/vis\\_ppsv.asp](http://www.immunize.org/vis/vis_ppsv.asp).

On Dec. 9, 2008, CDC issued an interim VIS for PCV vaccine to incorporate changes made to the recommendations for vaccinating healthy children ages 2 through 4 years. To access it, go to [www.immunize.org/vis/pnPCV7.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/vis/pnPCV7.pdf).

### Influenza news

On Feb. 25, ACIP voted on recommendations for the use of seasonal influenza vaccine in the 2009–10 influenza season. These call for annual influenza vaccination for all people ages 6 months through 18 years. Previously, influenza vaccination for this age group was recommended "if feasible." Recommendations for adult influenza vaccination are unchanged. As of this writing, the recommendations have not been made official by

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publication in *MMWR*; however, provisional recommendations are available at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/provisional](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/provisional).

CDC updated a page on its website, titled "Taking Care of Yourself: What to Do if You Get Sick with the Flu." It includes important information for providers, parents, and patients on emergency warning signs that indicate that immediate medical attention is needed. To access this important resource, go to [www.cdc.gov/flu/takingcare.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/takingcare.htm).

IAC recently created a new patient education piece on influenza vaccination that makes the case for all members of a family to be vaccinated against influenza. To access "Don't take chances with your family's health—make sure you all get vaccinated against influenza every year!" go to [www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4069.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4069.pdf).

### Td and Tdap news

On Dec. 4, 2008, FDA approved an expanded age range for administering Boostrix Tdap vaccine (GSK) to now include people ages 10 through 64 years. Previously, it was licensed for ages 10 through 18 years. To read a summary of indications for use of Boostrix, as published in *MMWR*,

What did one frog say to the other frog?



Time's fun when you're having flies!

go to [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5814a5.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5814a5.htm).

On Nov. 18, 2008, CDC issued an interim edition of a new VIS that is to be used for both Td vaccine and Tdap vaccine. To access it, go to [www.immunize.org/vis/td\\_tdap.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/vis/td_tdap.pdf).

### Rotavirus news

On Feb. 6, CDC published updated recommendations for prevention of rotavirus gastroenteritis in infants and children. It includes information on the use of recently licensed 2-dose Rotarix (RV1, GSK) vaccine and the 3-dose RotaTeq (RV5, Merck). To read the recommendations, go to [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr5802.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr5802.pdf).

### Hib news

On March 18, CDC issued a Health Advisory emphasizing the need for all children to receive the primary 3-dose series of Hib-containing vaccine and outlining recommendations for vaccinating children of various ages with vaccine produced by different manufacturers. Because of the Hib vaccine shortage, CDC recommends deferring the booster dose at age 12–15 months, except for high-risk groups. To access the Health Advisory, go to [www2a.cdc.gov/HAN/ArchiveSys/ViewMsgV.asp?AlertNum=00281](http://www2a.cdc.gov/HAN/ArchiveSys/ViewMsgV.asp?AlertNum=00281).

Supplies of Merck's PedvaxHIB and Comvax (Hib-HepB combination) vaccines are expected to be restored by mid-to-late 2009. Sanofi Pasteur's supply of ActHIB and Pentacel (DTaP-IPV/Hib) vaccines are adequate to cover the 3-dose series through mid-2009.

To access CDC's vaccine supply and shortage updates, go to [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/shortages](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/shortages).

### Hepatitis A and B news

In June, CDC issued a 2-page document titled "Protecting Infants against Hepatitis B Virus Infection when Using Pentacel Vaccine during the Hib Vaccine Shortage." It advises providers who are using DTaP-IPV/Hib vaccine (Pentacel) to make every effort to have an adequate supply of monovalent HepB vaccine available to ensure that all infants receive timely HepB vaccination and to avoid excess doses of other antigens, e.g., DTaP. To access the document, go to [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/shortages](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/shortages).

At its February meeting, ACIP voted to recommend hepatitis A vaccination for all previously unvaccinated people who anticipate having close personal contact with an international adoptee within 60 days of the adoptee's arrival in the U.S. when the adoptee is from a country that has high or intermediate hepatitis A endemicity. It is anticipated that the new recommendation will be published in *MMWR* later in 2009.

Pediatric hepatitis B (HepB) vaccine supply is expected to be tight in summer 2009. Despite supply constraints, current analysis indicates that sufficient pediatric HepB will be available to meet demand if providers continue to order vaccine judiciously. Providers should continue to administer pediatric HepB according to the recommended immunization schedule for children and teens.

Merck anticipates depleting supplies of its adult and dialysis formulations of Recombivax HB (HepB) vaccines. Supplies of GSK's adult Engerix-B (HepB) and Twinrix (HepA/HepB combination) will meet demands for routine and high-risk usage.

To access CDC's vaccine supply and shortage updates, go to [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/shortages](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/shortages).

### MMR, varicella & zoster news

Merck reports that though it is experiencing delays in shipping Varivax (varicella) vaccine, supplies are adequate to fully implement the recommended 2-dose schedule (including catch-up) for all age groups. Merck's ProQuad (MMRV) vaccine will not be available in 2009.

Merck is also experiencing delays in shipping Zostavax (shingles) vaccine but anticipates that shipping times will return to normal in mid-2009.

In Dec. 2008, Merck reported to CDC that it was not currently producing or taking orders for the following monovalent vaccines: Attenuvax (measles), Mumpsvax (mumps), and Meruvax (rubella).

To access CDC's vaccine supply and shortage updates, go to [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/shortages](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/shortages).

### Japanese encephalitis news

On March 30, FDA licensed Ixiaro (Intercell Biomedical), an inactivated, adsorbed Japanese Encephalitis (JE) virus vaccine, for use in preventing disease in persons age 17 years and older. It is licensed for use as a 2-dose series for people who travel to or live in areas where JE outbreaks are known to occur. To view the package insert, go to the alphabetical listing of licensed biological products at [www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/ucm133705.htm](http://www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/ucm133705.htm) and scroll down to Japanese encephalitis.

### Anthrax news

On Dec. 11, 2008, FDA approved a new vaccine administration schedule of 0 and 4 weeks and 6, 12, and 18 months for Emergent BioSolutions' BioThrax anthrax vaccine. Previously, the schedule also included an additional dose at 2 weeks. FDA also approved intramuscular administration; previously, the route was subcutaneous. To view the package insert, go to [www.emergentbiosolutions.com/pdf/emergent\\_biobthrax\\_us.pdf](http://www.emergentbiosolutions.com/pdf/emergent_biobthrax_us.pdf).

### CDC resources

The eleventh edition of CDC's textbook *Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases* (the Pink Book) provides healthcare professionals with comprehensive information on vaccine-preventable diseases and vaccines. It is available for downloading at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook). Information for ordering a bound copy is also available at the URL above.

In April, CDC released "Guide to Vaccine Contraindications and Precautions," which summarizes CDC's recommendations regarding common symptoms and conditions that do and do not contraindicate administering vaccines licensed for use in the U.S. To access it, go to [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/vac-admin/downloads/contraindications-guide-508.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/vac-admin/downloads/contraindications-guide-508.pdf).

### Vaccine concerns

On Feb. 12, three Special Masters of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims issued separate rulings related to autism and vaccine injury compensation cases. In each ruling, the Special Masters found that MMR vaccine, when administered with thimerosal-containing vaccines, does not cause autism. This is the first of two decisions that the U.S. Court of Federal Claims will make. The second decision will decide whether thimerosal-containing vaccines alone can cause autism. To read the Feb. 12 rulings, go to [www.uscfc.uscourts.gov/node/5026](http://www.uscfc.uscourts.gov/node/5026).

For a wide selection of resources from a variety of organizations on vaccine concerns, visit [www.immunize.org/concerns](http://www.immunize.org/concerns). ♦

### Current VIS dates

The use of most Vaccine Information Statements (VISs) is mandated by federal law. Listed below are the dates of the most current VISs. Check your stock of VISs against this list. If you have outdated VISs, print current ones from one of these sources: CDC's website at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis) (has VISs in English) or IAC's website at [www.immunize.org/vis](http://www.immunize.org/vis) (has VISs in more than 30 languages).

|                            |          |                   |          |
|----------------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|
| DTaP/DT/DTP.....           | 5/17/07  | PCV.....          | 12/9/08  |
| hepatitis A.....           | 3/21/06  | PPSV.....         | 4/16/09  |
| hepatitis B.....           | 7/18/07  | polio.....        | 1/1/00   |
| Hib.....                   | 12/16/98 | rabies.....       | 1/12/06  |
| HPV (H. papillomavirus)... | 2/2/07   | rotavirus.....    | 8/28/08  |
| influenza (LAIV).....      | 7/24/08  | shingles.....     | 9/11/06  |
| influenza (TIV).....       | 7/24/08  | Td/Tdap.....      | 11/18/08 |
| Japan. enceph. ....        | 5/11/05  | typhoid.....      | 5/19/04  |
| meningococcal....          | 1/28/08  | varicella.....    | 3/13/08  |
| MMR.....                   | 3/13/08  | yellow fever..... | 11/9/04  |

Multi-vaccine VIS .....9/18/08  
(for 6 vaccines given to infants/children:  
DTaP, IPV, Hib, HepB, PCV, RV)