



Bulletin No. 28  
December 28, 1994  
New Childhood Immunization Schedule

On January 1, 1995, the Alaska Division of Public Health will adopt a revised childhood immunization schedule below, recently adopted by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).<sup>1</sup> Beginning January 1, 1995, providers in Alaska may use state-supplied vaccine to immunize according to the new schedule.

**Two changes are being made to the schedule:**

- **MMR dose 2 at 4-6 years**
- **OPV dose 3 moved from 15 months to 6 months**

**MMR:** The State is now implementing a routine two-dose measles vaccine schedule, with the second dose of measles-containing vaccine (MMR) recommended at 4-6 years-of-age. **Measles vaccination requirements for school entry will remain the same: one dose of measles-containing vaccine on or after the first birthday.**

**MMR dose 1 should continue to be given at 15 months-of-age.** We do not recommend routinely giving dose 1 of MMR at 12 months because of the slightly lower rate of antibody response at 12 months-of-age (93%) as compared to 15 months-of-age (97-99%).<sup>1</sup> However, MMR dose 1 may be given to children as young as 12 months of age in remote areas where accessibility and logistics are important considerations. Clinical judgment should guide practices in such circumstances. If children receive MMR at 6 months to 12 months of age, they should be revaccinated at or about 15 months and then receive an additional MMR at school entry.

**OPV:** Oral polio vaccine (OPV) dose 3 should be administered at 6 months instead of 15-18 months of age. ACIP based the recommendation to move OPV3 to 6 months on the following: 1) OPV3 given at 6 months induces a similar immune response to that observed when OPV3 is given at 15-18 months of age; 2) the change simplifies the immunization schedule in the first year of life because DTP and OPV can now be given at 2, 4, and 6 months; and, 3) the change should increase vaccination coverage with OPV3.<sup>1</sup> A fourth dose of OPV is still recommended at 4-6 years of age.

**SIMULTANEOUS VACCINATION:** All routine childhood vaccines may be administered simultaneously. Because of the new schedule, OPV and MMR will no longer be routinely given together at 15 months of age. However, for children who are behind schedule, MMR and OPV may be given together or at any time in relation to each other (the 4 week waiting period has been eliminated).

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has published a recommended accelerated immunization schedule for children who start their immunizations late or who fall behind schedule.<sup>2</sup> This comprehensive document also discusses valid contraindications, spacing and dosing issues, and other important immunization topics. Copies of this document and the 1995 Alaska Childhood Immunization Schedule are available free-of-charge from the Section of Epidemiology.

References

1. ACIP changes child IM schedule. *Immunization Action News*, November 1, 1993, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
2. General Recommendations on Immunization, Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), *MMWR*, January 28, 1994, Vol. 43, No. RR-1.

### Alaska Childhood Immunization Schedule - 1995\*

Vaccine	At birth (before hospital discharge)	1 Month	2 Months	4 Months	6 Months	12 Months	15 Months	4-6 Years (before school entry)
<b>DTP</b> (Diphtheria-Tetanus- Pertussis)			DTP	DTP	DTP		DTP <sup>+</sup>	DTP <sup>+</sup>
<b>OPV</b> (Polio, live oral)			OPV	OPV	<b>OPV</b>			OPV
<b>MMR</b> (Measles-Mumps- Rubella)							MMR	<b>MMR</b>
<b>HIB</b> (Haemophilus influenza b)			HIB <sup>†</sup>	HIB <sup>†</sup>		HIB <sup>†</sup>		
<b>HB</b> (Hepatitis B)	HB	HB			HB			

\*

Changes are shown in bold.

+Diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis vaccine (DTaP) may be used for these doses among children aged 15 months through 6 years. DTaP vaccine is not currently available from the State.

†State currently uses Pedvax HIB®.

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