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## Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV7) Shortage Resolved – Reinstatement of Dose #4 for All Children

Fluctuations in the national supply of 7-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV7) have resulted in multiple revisions to the vaccine's recommendations during the last four years. Six *Epidemiology Bulletins* on this subject have been published since 2001.<sup>1-6</sup>

Production capacity has been increased, and the supply is now sufficient to meet the national demand for vaccine on the routine, 4-dose schedule.<sup>7</sup> **Effective immediately, Alaska providers may resume administration of PCV7 for all children according to the routine schedule.** Catch-up vaccination may occur during regularly scheduled visits for most children, according to the schedule shown on Table 1.

**Table 1. Recommended 7-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccination regimens among children aged <5 years, by history and condition**

Age at examination	Vaccination History	Recommended Regimen *
2 – 6 mos	0 doses	3 doses, 2 mos apart; fourth dose at age 12 – 15 mos
	1 dose	2 doses, 2 mos apart; fourth dose at age 12 – 15 mos
	2 doses	1 dose, 2 mos after the most recent dose; fourth dose at age 12 – 15 mos
7 – 11 mos	0 doses	2 doses, 2 mos apart; third dose at 12 – 15 mos
	1 or 2 doses before age 7 mos	1 dose at age 7 – 11 mos, with another dose at 12 – 15 mos (≥2 mos later)
12 – 23 mos	0 doses	2 doses, ≥2 mos apart
	1 dose before age 12 mos	2 doses, ≥2 mos apart
	1 dose at ≥12 mos	1 dose, ≥2 mos after the most recent dose
	2 or 3 doses before age 12 mos	1 dose, ≥2 mos after the most recent dose
24 – 59 mos		
Healthy children	Any incomplete schedule	Consider 1 dose, >2 mos after most recent dose <sup>†</sup>
Children at high risk <sup>‡</sup>	Any incomplete schedule of <3 doses	1 dose, ≥2 mos after the most recent dose and another dose ≥2 mos later
	Any incomplete schedule of 3 doses	1 dose, ≥2 mos after the most recent dose

\* For children vaccinated at age <12 months, the minimum interval between doses is 4 weeks. Doses administered at >12 months should be >8 weeks apart.

<sup>†</sup> Providers should consider administering a single dose to unvaccinated, healthy children aged 24 – 59 months with priority given to children aged 24 – 35 months, black children, American Indian or Alaska Native children not otherwise identified as high risk, and children who attend group day care centers.

<sup>‡</sup> Children with sickle cell disease, asplenia, chronic heart or lung disease, diabetes, cerebrospinal fluid leak, cochlear implant, human immunodeficiency virus infection or another immunocompromising condition, and American Indian or Alaska Native children in areas with a demonstrated risk for invasive pneumococcal disease more than twice the national average (i.e., Alaska, Arizona, New Mexico, and Navajo populations in Colorado and Utah.)

### Prioritization

The highest priority for catch-up vaccination is to ensure that children aged <5 years at high risk for invasive pneumococcal disease because of certain immunocompromising or chronic conditions (e.g., sickle cell disease, asplenia, chronic heart or lung disease, diabetes, cerebrospinal fluid leak, cochlear implant, or human immunodeficiency virus infection) are fully vaccinated. Second priorities include vaccination of healthy children aged <24 months who have not received any doses of PCV7 and vaccination of healthy children aged <12 months who have not yet received 3 doses.

### Vaccine Ordering

At this time the Alaska Immunization Program projects being able to fill vaccine orders. However, providers should carefully review their current inventories prior to placing an order. Over-ordering may result in an insufficient vaccine supply to meet the needs of the entire state. Routinely, Alaska providers are asked to order vaccines on a monthly basis. If a clinic recently has had an order filled and does not wish to wait an additional month before increasing PCV7 supplies, a one-time order for PCV7 may be sent to the Immunization Program through the routine ordering mechanism. For questions about this process, please call the Alaska Vaccine Depot at (907) 341-2202.

### References:

- 1 Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV7) Shortage – Revised Recommendations. *Epidemiology Bulletin* No. 13, October 3, 2001.
- 2 Continuing Shortage of Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV7) Leads to Revised Recommendations. *Epidemiology Bulletin* No. 18, August 7, 2002.
- 3 Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV7) Shortage Ends – Return to Routine Schedule. *Epidemiology Bulletin* No. 12, May 27, 2003.
- 4 Shortage of Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV7). *Epidemiology Bulletin* No. 5, February 18, 2004.
- 5 Shortage of Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV7) Worsens. *Epidemiology Bulletin* No. 6, March 9, 2004.
- 6 Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV7) Shortage Eases: Reinstatement of Dose 3 in Healthy Children and Doses 3 & 4 for All Alaska Natives. *Epidemiology Bulletin* No. 16, July 27, 2004.
- 7 Notice to Readers: Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine Shortage Resolved. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *MMWR* 2004; 53(36): 851-852.