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DATE: April 12, 2018

TO: Iowa Vaccines for Children Program Providers

FROM: Iowa VFC Program

RE: Hepatitis B Vaccine Supply Update

The Iowa Immunization Program has been notified of a continued limited supply of pediatric hepatitis B vaccine distributed by Merck throughout 2018. GSK will continue to support full demand in the United States for pediatric hepatitis B vaccine throughout 2018, using a combination of monovalent pediatric hepatitis B vaccine and its DTaP-HepB-IPV pediatric combination vaccine (Pediarix).

To ensure an equitable distribution of monovalent hepatitis B vaccines, the Iowa Vaccines for Children Program will receive Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) determined monthly allocations of Recombivax HB vial and syringe when available and Engerix B. For the month of April, the Iowa VFC Program will receive an allocation containing only Engerix B vaccine. In the following months, VFC will receive an allocation containing some combination of these monovalent vaccines. However, the mixture of these products during the shortage may vary and may be different from what is routinely ordered. As necessary, the VFC Program will contact providers regarding vaccine orders to discuss the availability of Hepatitis B vaccine.

Between the two manufacturers, CDC anticipates there will be approximately 10% less monovalent pediatric hepatitis B vaccine than normal during the rest of 2018. The expected monovalent supply will provide sufficient vaccine to cover the hepatitis B birth dose for all children as well as additional pediatric hepatitis B vaccine for second and third doses. However, some adjustments will be necessary from providers because of the decrease in monovalent vaccine. The CDC has prepared [Pediatric Hepatitis B Vaccination Guidance](#) during the 2018 Supply Shortage as well as sample immunization schedules available on the [Immunization Program webpage](#).

The Immunization Program appreciates your understanding and assistance with this matter. If you have questions regarding vaccine orders, please contact the VFC Program at 1-800-831-6293 ext. 5.