

**Reminder: Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine Supply Should be Sufficient to
Vaccinate All Recommended Groups**

In November 2006 MDPH notified providers of a Notice to Readers published in *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (MMWR) regarding meningococcal vaccine. The Notice to Readers alerted providers that supply issues with Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MCV4), trade name Menactra® (sanofi pasteur), were resolved, and that they should resume routine vaccination of 11-12 year olds. This notification may be accessed on the MDPH website:

http://www.mass.gov/dph/cdc/epii/imm/alerts/mcv4_supply_update_20061103.pdf.

Current supplies of meningococcal vaccine should allow for vaccination of all recommended groups. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends routine vaccination with MCV4 for:

- children aged 11–12 years at their regular health-care visit;
- adolescents at high-school entry (at approximately age 15 years), if not previously vaccinated with MCV4;
- college freshmen living in dormitories; and
- other persons at increased risk for meningococcal disease. (For a detailed list please see the ACIP recommendation *Prevention and Control of Meningococcal Disease* available on the CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5407.pdf>.)

MDPH supplies MCV4 for use in Vaccines for Children (VFC)-eligible children, 11 through 18 years of age who fall into one of the recommended groups. VFC is a federal entitlement program which provides vaccine for children under 19 years of age who are:

- enrolled in Medicaid;
- without health insurance;
- American Indian (Native American) or Alaska Native; and
- underinsured children seen at federally qualified health centers (FQHC) and rural health centers (RHC).

If you need more doses of MCV4 to vaccinate your VFC-eligible children, or if you need to adjust your allocation of other state supplied vaccines (e.g. HPV, rotavirus, Tdap), please contact your MDPH Regional Health Office or the Vaccine Management Unit at (617) 983-6828.

Northeast Regional Office Tewksbury	(978) 851-7261
Central Regional Office West Boylston	(508) 792-7880
Southeast Regional Office Taunton	(508) 977-3709
Metro/Boston* Regional Office Jamaica Plain	(617) 983-6860
Western Regional Office Amherst	(413) 545-6600

*Boston providers and residents may also call the Boston Public Health Commission at (617) 534-5611.

Children who are not VFC-eligible and adults should be vaccinated with privately purchased meningococcal vaccine. Providers with questions about privately purchasing vaccine may contact sanofi pasteur at 1-800-VACCINE or at <http://www.vaccineshoppe.com>.