



# IMPORTANT MESSAGE

California Department of Public Health  
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Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program  
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## Temporary Decrease in Pentacel<sup>®</sup> Vaccine Supply

Dear VFC Provider,

Due to manufacturing delays experienced by Sanofi Pasteur, available Pentacel<sup>®</sup> (DTaP-IPV/Hib combination vaccine) doses have decreased nationwide. In order to manage a limited vaccine supply until this situation is resolved early fall 2012, all Pentacel<sup>®</sup> orders will be reduced.

Childhood immunizations should NOT be deferred or delayed due to this vaccine's unavailability. Individual vaccine components, DTaP, IPV and Hib vaccines, are available in adequate supplies from Sanofi and other manufacturers, to compensate for Pentacel<sup>®</sup> supply reduction and meet provider demand.

The following ordering guidelines will be in place until vaccine supply levels return to normal:

- **Order restrictions:** All providers are restricted to a monthly vaccine supply, consisting of 60-70% of the clinic's monthly Pentacel<sup>®</sup> usage (plus an equivalent of a 2-week safety stock supply). Current vaccine inventory is taken into account when approving orders.
- **Order submission:** Providers on an "every two month or quarterly" ordering cycle placing routine orders during the shortage, will have Pentacel<sup>®</sup> orders approved based on the restricted monthly supply. Supplemental Pentacel<sup>®</sup> orders may be submitted in-between ordering cycles.
- **Strategic use of limited doses:** Pentacel<sup>®</sup> doses should be used for the primary doses. Individual vaccine components DTaP and Hib should be used for the 15-18 month booster doses. IPV does not need to be given at the 15-18 month visit because 3 doses of IPV fulfill the primary recommendation.
- **Staff Education:** Providers should review the specific age indications and recommended dosing schedule for all vaccines with staff to ensure familiarity with alternative products.

[A VFC Program letter](#) containing additional details has been e-mailed to VFC providers and is available at [www.eziz.org](http://www.eziz.org). If you have any questions, please contact your VFC Representative or VFC Customer Service at 1-877-243-8832.

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