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TO: Vaccine for Children (VFC) Providers IZB-FY-1213-09

FROM: John Talarico, D.O., M.P.H., Chief  
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Division of Communicable Disease Control, Immunization Branch

DATE: October 2, 2012 *J. Talarico, D.O.*

SUBJECT: Further Large Decrease in Pentacel<sup>®</sup> Vaccine Allocations Beginning  
October 2012

### **Pentacel<sup>®</sup> Vaccine Allocation Update**

The California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program has just been notified that its monthly allocation for Sanofi Pasteur's Pentacel<sup>®</sup> will decrease to 20% of its current allocation beginning in October 2012. This decreased allocation is expected to continue through at least March 2013.

### **Impact of Shortage**

VFC continues to have adequate supplies of individual DTaP (including DAPTACEL<sup>®</sup>), IPV, and Hib vaccines to meet provider demand. GlaxoSmithKline's Pediarix<sup>®</sup> (DTaP-Hep B-IPV) is also an option for providers. Providers should review potential vaccine schedule options for their offices to provide the recommended immunizations; providers should NOT defer or delay immunizing patients at the recommended ages.

Providers switching to Pediarix<sup>®</sup> should use up remaining supplies of Pentacel<sup>®</sup> and order more doses of Hib vaccine and fewer doses of hepatitis b vaccine to compensate for the switch. Practices may wish to refer to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's \(CDC\) sample schedules](#) for switching to Pediarix<sup>®</sup>.

Providers continuing to use Pentacel<sup>®</sup> and individual DTaP, IPV, and Hib vaccines: The California VFC Program recommends using Pentacel<sup>®</sup> for the first dose and individual DTaP, IPV, and Hib vaccines for additional doses. Practices may wish to refer to the [CDC's sample schedules](#) for completing the series with individual vaccines. The California VFC Program will continue to monitor allocations of Pentacel<sup>®</sup> and will increase dose allocations as supplies allow.

When implementing a new schedule in your practice, please review minimum intervals and licensed age ranges carefully. All staff should be thoroughly informed and

educated on any changes to vaccines and schedules prior to implementation to avoid errors in administration.

### **VFC Orders**

The California VFC Program will limit Pentacel<sup>®</sup> orders to approximately 20% of their recent monthly allocation beginning October 2012. Providers ordering Pentacel<sup>®</sup> should continue to submit monthly Pentacel<sup>®</sup> requests and order adequate doses of other vaccines to compensate for the reduction in Pentacel<sup>®</sup>.

We appreciate your flexibility, understanding, and your continued efforts to immunize our young children against serious vaccine preventable diseases. The California VFC Program will continue to inform providers about Pentacel<sup>®</sup> supply. If you have any questions about this communication, please contact your VFC Representative or VFC Customer Service at 1-877-243-8832.

cc: CDPH Immunization Branch Field Representatives  
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