NOTICE FROM VFC: VACCINE RECALL

As a result of a recent manufacturer-initiated precautionary vaccine recall, Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers are being asked to identify and follow instructions regarding the Merck vaccines listed below.

The lots that are being recalled are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product Description</th>
<th>Lot #</th>
<th>Expiration Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PedvaxHIB®</td>
<td>0677U</td>
<td>11 January 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PedvaxHIB®</td>
<td>0820U</td>
<td>12 January 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PedvaxHIB®</td>
<td>0995U</td>
<td>16 January 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PedvaxHIB®</td>
<td>1164U</td>
<td>18 January 2010 DISTRIBUTED BY VFC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PedvaxHIB®</td>
<td>0259U</td>
<td>17 October 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PedvaxHIB®</td>
<td>0435U</td>
<td>18 October 2009 DISTRIBUTED BY VFC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PedvaxHIB®</td>
<td>0436U</td>
<td>19 October 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PedvaxHIB®</td>
<td>0437U</td>
<td>19 October 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PedvaxHIB®</td>
<td>0819U</td>
<td>09 January 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PedvaxHIB®</td>
<td>1167U</td>
<td>10 January 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMVAX®</td>
<td>0376U</td>
<td>05 January 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMVAX®</td>
<td>0377U</td>
<td>08 January 2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No other lots of PedvaxHIB® or COMVAX® and no other Merck products are affected by this recall.

All inventory matching this description needs to be removed from your refrigerator(s) immediately. There is no need to maintain the cold chain for the recalled lot numbers. Place the vaccine in a bag or box and clearly label “Do Not Use” and include a sheet of paper with the following information: VFC ID #, Inventory details (Lot Number(s), Expiration date, and number of doses). Include the word “RECALL” somewhere on the sheet. Immunization Program Consultants (IPC) will be arranging vaccine pick-ups of recalled vaccine. If you choose, you may also send vaccine back to the warehouse as you would other wasted vaccines.

The recall, initiated by the manufacturer, is precautionary. Children who have been administered vaccine from the affected lots do not need to be revaccinated. The reason for the recall is that the company cannot assure sterility for these specific vaccine lots. The potential contamination in these specific lots was identified as part of Merck’s standard evaluation of their manufacturing processes. Sterility tests of the vaccine lots themselves have not found any contamination.

CDC has specifically stated that this recall is not in response to a health threat. There have been no findings of any contamination, but potential for contamination exists. Again, this is a precautionary recall.
We realize that this may likely cause a shortage of your Hib vaccine supply. The CDC has assured us that they are working on finding solutions to the vaccine supply issue, and we will provide additional information as soon as it becomes available.

If, after you remove the recalled vaccine, you still have Hib vaccine in stock, please be mindful that children at increased risk for *Haemophilus Influenzae type B* include: children with sickle cell disease, leukemia and malignant neoplasms, HIV and certain other immunocompromising conditions, asplenia, as well as American Indian and Alaska Native children. Vaccinating these children according to the recommended schedule is a high priority.

Remember that vaccination at all age levels should continue – a recall of particular lot numbers of one vaccine should not in any way affect the important day-to-day work of protecting Georgians from vaccine-preventable diseases.

More information on the recall, including Q & A, is available at:  
http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/recalls/hib-recall-faqs-12-12-07.htm

Please check this site regularly. Keep yourself and your staff informed so that questions from concerned parents are met with knowledge and compassion. You may also refer questions to the Georgia Immunization Program at (404) 657-3158.

We apologize for the inconvenience that this will cause you.