

# Weekly Influenza Update

January 23, 2009

**\*\* High Priority \*\***

CDC has just released the following information. This is of particular interest to Wisconsin Clinicians due to the proximity of these recent cases of H. influenzae.

Background:

- Five recent cases of Hib disease in Minnesota suggest potential for an outbreak.
- In 2008 Minnesota confirmed five cases of Haemophilus influenzae, type b in children under 3 years of age, one of whom died. Of special concern is that this is the highest number of cases in children under age 5 that Minnesota has seen since 1991.
- Three case-patients had received no vaccinations due to parent or guardian deferral or refusal of vaccinations. One child was 5 months old and had therefore received two doses. The other (case 1) was fully vaccinated for age but, subsequent to Hib infection, was diagnosed with hypogammaglobulinemia.
- A review of Minnesota vaccination data during this period found among children aged 7 months, 3-dose primary Hib series coverage was 46.5% and 18% fewer children had received age-appropriate Hib vaccination compared with pneumococcal conjugate or DTaP vaccination.
- Hib vaccine is recommended for all infants and is provided as a two- or three-dose primary series (depending on product), plus a booster shot. Because of a Hib vaccine shortage since November 2007, the only available Hib vaccine product requires that infants receive a primary series of three doses at 2, 4, and 6 months of age. The shortage is expected to last into mid-2009.
- During the vaccine shortage, national advisory groups recommended that health care providers defer giving a final booster dose of Hib vaccine to toddlers, age 12-15 months, in the interest of completing the primary series for as many infants as possible.
- An MMWR dispatch will be published and can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/>
- It is critically important that all children receive their primary series of 3 doses of a Hib-containing vaccine during this shortage.
- Given the prolonged booster deferral and reduced primary series coverage, the increase in the number of Hib cases in MN likely reflects a weakening of herd immunity.
- The recent cases of Hib disease serve as a reminder that serious vaccine-preventable diseases do occur if you don't vaccinate.

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