



DATE AUGUST 15 2008

HEALTH

ADVISORY

Rabies Vaccine Supply Continues To Be Limited

Health-Care Providers Required To Contact Department of Health When Ordering Vaccine

The North Dakota Department of Health is sharing the following updated information from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding the availability of rabies vaccine. In addition to the following information, **providers placing orders for rabies vaccine from Novartis will be required to consult with public health officials and have a password to complete an order.** The password is available through consultation with the North Dakota Department of Health. The current vaccine supply warrants prudent use of the vaccine in accordance with the recommendations set forth by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

- Due to a significant increase in demand and a minor production delay with IMOVAX Rabies vaccine, **Sanofi Pasteur currently does not have IMOVAX Rabies vaccine available.**
- Sanofi Pasteur expects to have IMOVAX Rabies vaccine doses available again in the late-September to early-October timeframe. In the meantime, please contact Novartis at 800.244.7668 to obtain rabies vaccine doses for patients who have been exposed to rabies.
- Novartis is continuing shipments for post-exposure prophylaxis use through October 2008. Additional doses of vaccine are anticipated to be available at that time and current supply concerns are expected to be alleviated with receipt of this additional material.
- Vaccine availability for pre-exposure vaccination continues to be limited and will be distributed on approval from state and federal public health authorities for those with a critical need and in consideration of available supplies. These measures will allow responsible management of currently limited supplies of this vaccine for those individuals at highest risk of exposure.
- Both Novartis and Sanofi Pasteur remain in close contact with public health authorities to ensure that guidelines for appropriate usage of vaccine for post-exposure prophylaxis are communicated to medical providers.
- Discussions among federal, state and local public health personnel are ongoing to review additional strategies to manage this situation.

For more information, providers can call the North Dakota Department of Health at 800.472.2180 or visit the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/rabies.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

- *Health Alert conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.*
- *Health Advisory provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.*
- *Health Update provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.*
- *Health Information provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.*

This message is being sent to local public health units, clinics, hospitals, physicians, tribal health, North Dakota Nurses Association, North Dakota Long Term Care Association, North Dakota Healthcare Association, North Dakota Medical Association, North Dakota EMS Association and hospital public information officers.

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You have received this message based upon information contained within our emergency notification database.

If you have a different or additional e-mail or fax address that you would like to be used, please contact the

North Dakota Department of Health, Health Alert Network program at 701.328.2270.

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