



DATE JUNE 19 2008

HEALTH ADVISORY

Rabies Vaccine Currently Available in Limited Supply *Manufacturers Prioritizing For Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Only*

As a result of Sanofi Pasteur renovating its rabies vaccine production facilities, their rabies vaccine, IMOVAX® Rabies, is temporarily available on a finite basis. During this time, IMOVAX® Rabies will be available for post-exposure prophylaxis only.

As of June 17, 2008, Novartis, the maker of the other rabies vaccine (RabAvert®), will temporarily cease to provide its rabies vaccine for pre and post exposure prophylaxis.

Although the priority for the rabies vaccine will be post-exposure prophylaxis, a very limited supply of vaccine will be available for pre-exposure prophylaxis for priority groups based on occupational risk. These groups, from highest priority to lowest priority are: laboratory personnel working with rabies, animal control officers, veterinary staff including students and veterinary technicians, and wildlife workers.

Vaccine will continue to be available for post-exposure prophylaxis, however, it is prudent that vaccine be used for post-exposure prophylaxis in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. These recommendations can be found at www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr57e507.pdf.

Until the rabies vaccine supply increases, the North Dakota Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, along with vaccine manufacturers are requesting any decisions to administer either pre- or post-exposure prophylaxis be made with consultation with the North Dakota Department of Health. It is expected that the vaccine manufacturers will be verifying orders for rabies vaccine to ensure the vaccine is being used appropriately.

Further information about the rabies vaccine supply can be found at www.cdc.gov/rabies/news/2008-06-16_RabVax.html. If you are experiencing difficulty in ordering rabies vaccine or wish to consult on a possible rabies exposure, please call the North Dakota Department of Health at 800.472.2180.

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

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