



**OCT. 12, 2008**

## **HEALTH UPDATE**

### **Rabies Vaccine Supply Update**

As a result of collaborative efforts with public health and government officials, Novartis has additional supplies of rabies vaccine for distribution. The company has announced that as of Oct. 7, 2008, they are able to deliver RabAvert vaccine for post-exposure prophylaxis, without supply restrictions.

The Novartis product identification number has changed from 53905-501-01 to 63851-501-01.

Questions can be directed to Novartis customer service at 1-800-244-7668.

Sanofi Pasteur continues to have IMOVAX vaccine available for post-exposure prophylaxis.

To obtain IMOVAX rabies vaccine, you must first contact the North Dakota Department of Health's Division of Disease Control so that a risk assessment can be conducted for the suspected exposure. If the Department of Health determines that rabies post-exposure prophylaxis is indicated, you will receive a passcode to place on the Sanofi Pasteur Rabies Post-Exposure Form. The form must be filled out in its entirety, including the required physician's signature and passcode provided by the Department of Health. Please contact Sanofi Pasteur at 1-800-VACCINE to obtain the required form. Call 800.472.2180 or 701.328.2378 to reach the Department of Health.

Further information and updates can be found on CDC's website at [www.cdc.gov/rabies/news/RabVaxupdate.html](http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/news/RabVaxupdate.html).

*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, and hospital public information officers.*