

# AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

## POLICY STATEMENT

Organizational Principles to Guide and Define the Child Health Care System and/or Improve the Health of All Children

Committee on Infectious Diseases

### Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule—United States, January–June 2004

ABBREVIATIONS. ACIP, Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices; VAERS, Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System.

The annual recommended childhood and adolescent immunization schedule of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the American Academy of Family Physicians is issued for January to June 2004. A mid-year schedule will be released with any significant new recommendations.

In October 2003, the ACIP recommended universal influenza immunization of all children 6 through 23 months of age and routine influenza immunization of all household contact and out-of-home caregivers of children younger than 24 months. This change by the ACIP from encouraging immunization to recommending immunization currently is under consideration by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Academy of Family Physicians, and American Academy of Pediatrics for the 2004–2005 influenza season.

Changes in the 2004 schedule include specification of the following minimum ages for the final dose in the vaccine series: 1) diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis (DTaP),  $\geq 4$  years of age; 2) *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) conjugate vaccine,  $\geq 12$  months of age; 3) pneumococcal conjugate vaccine,  $\geq 12$  months of age; and 4) hepatitis B (third or fourth dose),  $\geq 24$  weeks of age. The diphtheria and tetanus toxoids (Td) booster is now recommended to be given at 11 to 12 years of age as opposed to 11 to 18 years of age.

Live-attenuated influenza vaccine is an acceptable alternative to the intramuscular trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine for healthy persons 5 to 49 years old. Children  $\leq 8$  years of age who are receiving influenza vaccine for the first time should receive 2 doses separated by at least 6 weeks.

Clinically significant adverse events that follow immunization should be reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Guidance about how to obtain and complete a VAERS form can be obtained on the Internet at <http://www.vaers.org> or by calling 1-800-822-7967. Information on new

vaccine releases, vaccine supplies, and statements on specific vaccines can be found at <http://www.aap.org> and <http://www.cdc.gov/nip>. Vaccine updates are available in the *Red Book*<sup>1</sup> or online at <http://www.aapredbook.org>.

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## REFERENCES

1. American Academy of Pediatrics, Committee on Infectious Diseases. In Pickering LK, Ed. *Red Book: 2003 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases*. 26th Ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2003. Available at: <http://www.aapredbook.org>

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