

Recommended Immunization Schedules for Children and Adolescents—United States, 2008

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

Committee on Infectious Diseases

THE ANNUAL RECOMMENDED immunization schedules for children and adolescents in the United States for January–December 2008 were approved by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the American Academy of Family Physicians. There are three schedules: one for children 0 to 6 years of age, one for those 7 to 18 years of age, and a catch-up immunization schedule for those who start late or fall behind. These schedules reflect current recommendations for use of vaccines licensed by the US Food and Drug Administration and include the following changes from last year:

- A single dose of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine is recommended for all healthy children 24 to 59 months of age who are incompletely immunized.
- The lower age limit for use of live-attenuated influenza vaccine in healthy children has been reduced from 5 years of age to 2 years of age. Live-attenuated influenza vaccine is now available in a liquid formulation that is stable at refrigerator temperatures. The time interval for administration of the second dose of live-attenuated nasal influenza vaccine (when a second dose is indicated) has been reduced from 6 to 4 weeks.
- A single dose of quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine is now recommended for all adolescents 11 to 18 years of age if not previously administered. For children 2 to 10 years of age at increased risk of meningococcal infection, as defined in the 2006 *Red Book*,¹ quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine is recommended and preferred over quadrivalent meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine.

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 www.vaers.hhs.gov or by calling 800-822-7967. A Web site (www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/ACIP-list.htm) is available that contains Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices statements with details of the recommendations for individual vaccines, including recommendations for children with high-risk conditions. Additional information can be found in the 2006 *Red Book* and at *Red Book Online* (www.aapredbook.org). Information on new vaccine releases, vaccine supplies, and statements on specific vaccines can be found at www.aapredbook.org/news/vaccstatus.shtml and www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/acip.

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1. American Academy of Pediatrics. Meningococcal infections. In: Pickering LK, Baker CJ, Long SS, eds. *Red Book: 2006 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases*. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2006:452–460

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