

State of Montana DPHHS HAN ADVISORY

Distributed via the DPHHS Health Alert Network (HAN) System
Friday, June 20, 2008 1:45 PM

DPHHS Health Alert Hotline 1-800-701-5769

DPHHS Contact Information:

If there are questions about obtaining the rabies vaccine or the rabies immune globulin, please call the Immunization Program at 406-444-5580.

DPHHS Recommendations:

Rabies vaccine is available from Sanofi Pasteur @ 1-800-822-2463. The company will fax a post exposure form to the requesting provider, and require confirmation that a physician is involved, ask for number of patients and the number of doses of vaccine needed.

Rabies Immune Globulin (RIG) is available from FFF Enterprises @ 800-843-7477.

It is recommended that local public health agencies forward this message to the appropriate contacts, particularly contacts who may be dealing with people coming in with dog bites and wild and domestic animal bites during the routine course of business. The recent issue of "Montana Public Health" describes "Animal Bites and the Risk of Rabies". You can read this issue at http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/PHSD/prevention_opps/pdf/MPH-Rabies1-06-04-08.doc

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The goal of Montana's Health Alert Network is to transmit information to local public health authorities as quickly as possible, and assign a suitable priority to the message that is sensitive to the impact of a health-related event providing information relative to the public health and safety of Montanans. For questions or comments relative to Montana's HAN system you may contact the DPHHS HAN Coordinator, Gerry Wheat at <<mailto:gwheat@mt.gov>>

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; unlikely to require immediate action.

You have received this message based upon the information contained within our emergency notification data base. If you have a different or additional e-mail or fax address that you would like us to use please notify us as soon as possible by e-mail at hhshan@mt.gov <mailto:hhshan@mt.gov>

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This is an official

CDC Health Advisory

Distributed via Health Alert Network

June 20, 2008, 14:30 EDT (02:30 PM EDT)
CDCHAN-00276-08-06-20-ADV-N

Temporary Decrease in Human Rabies Vaccine Supplies

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been notified that Novartis Vaccines, maker of RabAvert (Rabies Vaccine), will temporarily cease to provide their rabies vaccine for both pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis uses

to health care providers. This includes physicians, nurse practitioners, hospitals, clinics, etc. A second company, Sanofi Pasteur, produces IMOVAX Rabies (Rabies Vaccine), and will continue to supply vaccine to health care providers for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). In certain circumstances, such as an allergic reaction to one company's vaccine product, the other company's vaccine product can be obtained to complete a vaccination series after consultation with state health departments and CDC, on a case-by-case basis. Overall, both manufacturers have limited supplies of rabies vaccine, necessitating the need for judicious use of these products by health care providers. (It is expected that additional RabAvert will be available on the market in July 2008. When that occurs, it is expected that the demand for pre-exposure vaccinations can be fully met with RabAvert.)

Due to temporarily limited supplies, distribution of vaccine for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PreP) will be approved by state and federal public health authorities. Priority will be given for those individuals at greatest rabies exposure risk (e.g., rabies laboratory workers, animal control officers, veterinary staff, wildlife workers) and in consideration of available rabies vaccine supplies. In lower risk rabies exposure categories (e.g., travelers, veterinary students, etc.), human rabies PreP should be delayed until vaccine supply levels are restored.

Priority use of rabies vaccine will be for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) following ACIP human rabies prevention recommendations (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5703a1.htm>). IMOVAX rabies vaccine is available for PEP and providers should carefully review the ACIP recommendations and guidelines from their states to ensure that PEP is needed. They are also strongly encouraged to consult with local/state public health departments.

Public health authorities and health care providers are encouraged to educate the public concerning the need to take appropriate precautions to avoid [rabies exposure](#) and actions to take if an exposure occurs. Appropriate precautions include vaccination of pets, as well as livestock having close human contact, avoiding stray and wild animals, and safely capturing or detaining biting animals or obtaining owner contact information for follow up. Such practices will decrease the need for rabies PEP and thus allow for the responsible management of currently limited vaccine supplies.

CDC is working closely with both vaccine companies and state and federal public health authorities to ensure that health care providers receive up to date information on supply fluxes. Discussions among federal, state, and local public health personnel are ongoing to review additional strategies to manage the current supply of rabies vaccines. State and local health departments are working to ensure that health care providers are informed and have available consultation regarding best practices for the use of rabies vaccine.

Information about rabies, its prevention, and updates on the rabies vaccine situation can be obtained on the CDC rabies website <http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/> or by calling 1-800-CDC-INFO. The rabies web site will be updated as new information becomes available.

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##This Message was distributed to State and Local Health Officers, Epidemiologists, State Laboratory Directors, PHEP Coordinators, HAN Coordinators and Public Information Officers as well as Public Health Associations and Clinician organizations##

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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

Health Alert Network program at your State Health Department.

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