

**Iowa Department of Public Health
Division of Acute Disease Prevention & Emergency Response**

**Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program
Hepatitis A Vaccine Summary
April 1, 2009**

Iowa Vaccines for Children Program Implementation

Effective April 1, 2009, Hepatitis A vaccine may be administered to all VFC-eligible children 12 months through 18 years of age.

Hepatitis A Vaccine Recommendations

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) - On August 11, 2005, the FDA approved the request for VAQTA (Merck) hepatitis A vaccine, lowering the age indication from two years to 12 months of age. On October 17, 2005, the FDA approved the request for HAVRIX (GlaxoSmithKline) hepatitis A vaccine, lowering the age indication from two years to 12 months of age.

ACIP - On May 19, 2006, the ACIP recommended hepatitis A vaccine for routine immunization for all children beginning at 12 months of age (i.e. 12-23 months). Recommendations were approved by the CDC, Department of Health and Human Services and published in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) May 19, 2006 *MMWR* 2006; 55(No.RR-7).

VFC Resolution - On June 27, 2007, the ACIP workgroup approved the hepatitis A VFC resolution to include children 12 months through 23 months of age. Vaccination should be completed according to the licensed schedules and integrated into the routine childhood vaccination. Children who are not vaccinated by two years of age can be vaccinated at subsequent visits. Catch-up vaccination of unvaccinated children aged 2-18 years can be considered.

Minimum Age and Intervals for Hepatitis A Vaccine

Dosage Intervals for Vaccination - Hepatitis A Vaccines		
Vaccine	Minimum Age	Minimum interval between dose 1 to 2
HAVRIX	12 months	6 months
VAQTA	12 months	6 months

Vaccine Storage and Handling

- Store refrigerated at 2° - 8° C, 35° - 46° F
- Do not freeze.

IDPH/Immunization Program Recommendations

IDPH, Immunization Program routinely follows and promotes the Recommended Immunization Schedule. The Immunization Program will provide the hepatitis A vaccine in accordance with the ACIP recommendations and the VFC resolution.

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Vaccine Licensure / VFC Implementation

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) provides advice and guidance regarding the most appropriate application of vaccines for effective vaccine preventable disease control. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is responsible for the licensure of vaccines. Upon FDA approval the ACIP convenes and makes decisions on vaccine recommendations. A VFC resolution vote is required for the inclusion of new vaccines into the VFC Program or the modification of existing resolutions. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) then negotiates a contract for the purchase of vaccines. VFC vaccine must be administered according to the guidelines outlined by the ACIP recommendations and VFC resolutions.

CDC allocates individual state VFC funding based upon eligible populations, anticipated vaccine uptake and negotiated federal contract amounts. CDC establishes monthly vaccine allocations for each vaccine. Additional 317 CDC discretionary funds are used to vaccinate underinsured individuals seen at Local Public Health Agencies (LPHAs) who are not eligible under VFC guidelines. Each state determines the vaccine implementation date based upon the above process which is generally four to six months following vaccine licensure.