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Date: April 1, 2015

Subject: Expanded Availability of Hepatitis A, Tdap, and Varicella Vaccines
 for all Children through 18 Years of Age

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) is pleased to announce the expanded availability of hepatitis A, Tdap, and varicella vaccines effective April 1, 2015 for all children through 18 years of age. This expanded availability will now allow providers to use state-supplied vaccine to provide catch-up immunizations for those children who did not receive hepatitis A, Tdap, or varicella vaccinations at the recommended ages.

Vaccine Choice

In keeping with the recommendations of the Massachusetts Vaccine Purchasing Advisory Committee (MVPAC), brand choice is available for these vaccines:

<u>Vaccine</u>	<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Brand</u>
Hepatitis A	GlaxoSmithKline	Havrix®
	Merck	Vaqta®
Tdap	GlaxoSmithKline	Boostrix®
	Sanofi Pasteur	Adacel®
Varicella	Merck	Varivax® ProQuad® (varicella and MMR for children requiring both vaccines)

Vaccine Ordering

When placing vaccine orders for catch up doses of these vaccines, please order only those additional doses that you plan to administer during the next two months. As you administer doses, MDPH will approve replacement orders based on doses administered during the previous month.

Insurance Payors

MDPH will be notifying insurance companies of the expanded availability of these vaccines for all children through 18 years of age. MDPH will ask insurance companies to continue to reimburse providers that privately purchased these vaccines for up to six months or until their private supply is depleted. It will be up to each company to make that determination.

Please see the accompanying updated Childhood Vaccine Availability Table which is also available on our website at www.state.ma.us/dph/imm under Vaccine Management.

If you have questions regarding this new policy, please contact the Vaccine Unit at 617-983-6828.