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**Peach State Health Plan Provider Notice  
2008 Child & Adolescent Immunization Schedule Update**

April 1, 2008

Dear Peach State Provider:

Each year, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) reviews the childhood immunization schedule for persons aged 0 -18 and makes recommendations for changes as needed. The ACIP issued its recommendations for the 2008 schedule on January 11, 2008. The full details are available online at the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/child-schedule.htm>. The recommendations appear in chart form, followed by essential footnotes summarizing indications for each listed vaccine.

Included with this notice are the recommended immunization schedules by specific age group along with a summary of the changes to this year's schedule:

- The pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) footnote reflects updated recommendations for incompletely vaccinated children aged 24–59 months, including those with underlying medical conditions.
- Recommendations for use of the live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) now include healthy children as young as 2 years.
- LAIV should not be administered to children younger than 5 years with recurrent wheezing. Children aged under 9 years who are receiving influenza vaccine for the first time or who were vaccinated for the first time last season, but only received 1 dose, should have 2 doses of vaccine, at least 4 weeks apart. Other updates are included.
- For meningococcal vaccines, changes affect certain children aged 2–10 years. Vaccinating with meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4) is preferred to meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine (MPSV4) for children at increased risk for meningococcal disease, including children who are traveling to or residents of countries in which the disease is hyperendemic or epidemic, children who have terminal complement component deficiencies, and children who have anatomic or functional asplenia. The catch-up schedule for youths aged 13–18 years has been updated. MPSV4 is an acceptable alternative for short-term (i.e., 3–5 years) protection against meningococcal disease for persons aged 2–18 years.
- The tetanus and diphtheria toxoids/tetanus and diphtheria toxoids and acellular pertussis vaccine (Td/Tdap) catch-up schedule for persons aged 7–18 years who received their first dose before age 12 months now indicates that these youths should receive 4 doses, with at least 4 weeks (not 8 weeks) between doses 2 and 3.
- The catch-up bars for hepatitis B and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b conjugate vaccine have been deleted on the routine schedule for persons aged 0–6 years. The figure title refers users to the catch-up schedule (Table) for patients who fall behind or start late with vaccinations.

Please implement the changes as noted above for the recommended age groups. Please note that we are in the process of updating our system along with the health plan immunization schedules to reflect these changes.



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If you have questions in the interim or need clarification regarding this communication, please contact the Peach State Provider Services Department at (866) 874-0633.

Sincerely,

Peach State Health Plan