

# State of Montana DPHHS HAN ADVISORY

Distributed via the DPHHS Health Alert Network (HAN) System

Friday, August 15, 2008 4:00pm

DPHHS Health Alert Hotline 1-800-701-5769

## UPDATE 8/15/08 Changes in Ordering Procedures for Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis

DPHHS Contact Information: Bonnie Barnard at (406) 444-0274 or e-mail at [bbarnard@mt.gov](mailto:bbarnard@mt.gov) or Elton Mosher at (406) 444-3165 or e-mail at [emosher@mt.gov](mailto:emosher@mt.gov)

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Be aware that RabAvert from Novartis is the *ONLY* rabies vaccine currently available. All rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) requests **MUST** be made through MT-DPHHS Communicable Disease Epidemiology program at 406.444.0273 (24/7/365).

### ACTION REQUESTED Local Health Departments:

- Inform urgent care providers (emergency rooms, urgent care, clinics) that rabies PEP can only be obtained after consultation with local public health department
- Local public health departments must consult with MTDPHHS Communicable Disease Epidemiology staff at (406) 444-0273 (24/7/365) in order to obtain password to allow providers to order rabies vaccine doses for PEP
- Local public health departments should obtain the following information prior to consultation with MTDPHHS: (1) details of exposure situation, including type of exposure and number of persons exposed; (2) pharmacy and provider contact information (phone/fax)
- *Please forward to healthcare providers with local health department 24/7/365 contact number filled in below*

### ACTION REQUESTED Healthcare Providers:

- Contact your local health department at (*phone number*) in order to obtain confirmation code required to order rabies vaccine doses for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) from Novartis

### BACKGROUND

Effective immediately and until further notice, **Novartis will require health care providers to obtain a confirmation code from state or local health departments before releasing rabies vaccine doses for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)**. This is being done to ensure that adequate rabies exposure risk assessments are done at the local level so that the limited supply of rabies vaccine doses for PEP are used appropriately.

If this measure does not significantly slow the usage rate until more vaccine supplies become available, PreEP orders may be placed on temporary hold.

Additional information related to the current rabies vaccine supply will be updated soon on the CDC Rabies website at: [www.cdc.gov/rabies](http://www.cdc.gov/rabies)

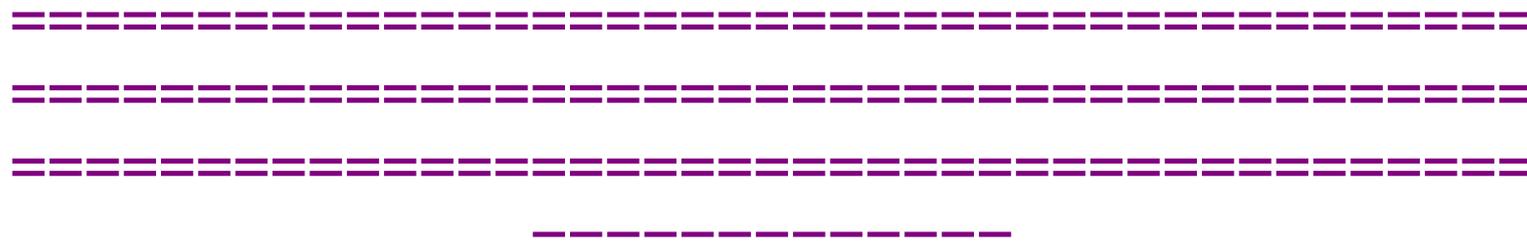
Vaccine can be ordered from Novartis by calling 1-800-244-7668, option 2. Effective August 15, 2008, a *health department confirmation code is REQUIRED to order vaccine*. Vaccine for rabies PEP is released by Novartis on a case-by-case basis and shipped to health care providers. It may take up to 2 days for vaccine to be received. This delay should not represent an increased risk to most patients. Clinicians should inform Novartis of especially high-risk exposures (including bites to the head, face and neck) to request expedited shipment.

To minimize unnecessary use of rabies vaccine, please review the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) human rabies prevention recommendations (see below).

### Resources

- \* August 11, 2008 CDC update on the rabies vaccine supply situation: [http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/news/2008-08-15\\_RabVaxupdate.html](http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/news/2008-08-15_RabVaxupdate.html)

\* 2008 recommendations on rabies prevention from ACIP:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5703a1.htm>



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) <mailto:hhshan@mt.gov>

