

State of Montana DPHHS HAN ADVISORY

Distributed via the DPHHS Health Alert Network (HAN) System
Monday August 25, 2008 9:00am

DPHHS Health Alert Hotline 1-800-701-5769

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

DPHHS 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

Recent State-wide HAN Test results included in attachment.

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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 Update

Distributed via Health Alert Network

August 22, 2008, 19:30 EDT (07:30 PM EDT)
CDCHAN-00277-08-08-22-UPD-N

Rabies Vaccine Supply is Limited--Update as of August 22, 2008

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been notified by Novartis, maker of RabAvert[®] (Rabies Vaccine), that the supply of human rabies vaccine is being used at a higher rate than expected, which may affect the near-term availability of vaccine for rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). This development follows the August 14 news release by Sanofi Pasteur, which announced the unavailability of the IMOVAX[®] vaccine until late September-early October. Because of limited existing supplies, the CDC strongly recommends that health care providers, state and local public health authorities, animal control officials, and the public take immediate steps to ensure appropriate use of human rabies biologics. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) human rabies prevention recommendations outline animal exposures associated with the risk of rabies (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5703a1.htm>). Judicious and appropriate use of rabies vaccines is crucial to avert a situation in which persons exposed to rabies are put at increased risk due to depleted vaccine supplies.

To ensure that thorough risk assessments are conducted, Novartis is now requiring that health care providers confer with public health officials, and obtain a confirmation code from a state health department before ordering vaccine doses for post-exposure prophylaxis. Confirmation codes will be updated at a frequent interval. These codes should only be released by a state/local health authority that has reviewed the known facts of a given exposure and determined they indicate a sufficient level of exposure risk as outlined in the ACIP human rabies prevention recommendations (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5703a1.htm>).

Public health authorities, health care providers, and veterinarians are encouraged to educate the public regarding precautions to avoid rabies exposure and actions to take if an exposure occurs. These precautions include vaccinating pets and livestock that have close human contact, avoiding stray and wild animals, and safely capturing or detaining biting animals (preferably using animal control officials), or obtaining owner contact information for follow up. For specific guidance, please see www.cdc.gov/rabies. Persons with possible rabies exposure should be evaluated as soon as possible by a health care provider. Since PEP is an urgent medical issue but not an emergency, it can be delayed until animal rabies testing or clinical observation is completed. This approach not only limits administration of PEP to persons with confirmed rabies exposure, but it is also cost-saving and conserves limited resources.

Until vaccine supply levels are restored, distribution of vaccine for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PreP) will continue to require approval by state and federal public health authorities. Priority will be given to those individuals with occupational rabies exposure risk (e.g., rabies laboratory workers, animal control officers, veterinary staff, wildlife workers).

Discussions among federal, state, and local public health officials are ongoing to review additional strategies to manage this situation. A national working group has been convened to monitor the ongoing supply situation and provide updated recommendations as the situation evolves.

For more information about rabies and its prevention, and updates regarding vaccine supply, contact your state or local public health official or CDC at 1-800-CDC-INFO or visit www.cdc.gov/rabies.

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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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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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