TO: Regional Directors, Health Service Regions
Regional Immunization Program Managers, Health Service Regions
Health Department Directors, Local Health Departments
Immunization Program Managers, Local Health Departments
TVFC Providers

FROM: Karen Hess, Manager
Vaccine Services Group

THRU: Monica Gamez, Director
Infectious Disease Control Unit

DATE: October 1, 2012

SUBJECT: Texas Vaccines for Children Program: Pentacel® Further Reduced

In April, The Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC) Program was notified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) about a temporary shortage that limited supply of Sanofi Pasteur’s Pentacel® vaccine [Diphtheria and Tetanus Toxoids and Acellular Pertussis Adsorbed (DTaP), Inactivated Poliovirus (IPV), and Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)] to about two thirds of normal quantity. The CDC has now indicated the shortage is much worse than anticipated and vaccine allocations for this product will be cut significantly beginning in October.

Effective immediately, TVFC provider Maximum Stock Levels (MSLs) for Pentacel® will be reduced to ten percent. This reduction will happen automatically in the Electronic Vaccine Inventory (EVI) system. Until further notice, providers will not be allowed to order over their newly defined Pentacel® MSL. The remaining doses will be substituted with the following single vaccines: DTaP- Infanrix® vials, IPV – IPOL®, and Hib – ActHIB®. Sanofi Pasteur is also limiting their DTaP vaccine, Daptacel, to private providers. For this reason, it is not the chosen substitute. Providers may accept these substitutions or may reduce or zero out these products in EVI, and instead choose other products, including Daptacel, as substitutions.

If you would like additional information on vaccine options by age, please go to www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/tvfc/default.shtml and look under Provider Resources for Vaccine Options by Age, and CDC Pentacel Guidance Document. If single antigens or other
combinations are not showing as ordering options, or if providers need to change current vaccine selections, the opportunity to alter vaccine choices in EVI will begin on November 7th, 2012.

If you have questions regarding Pentacel® or vaccine MSLs, please contact your local health department, health service region, or TVFC consultant.