

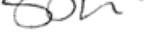


TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

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COMMISSIONER

TO: Texas DSHS HSR Immunization Program Managers

FROM: Saroj Rai, Ph.D. 
Immunization Branch Manager

DATE: October 25, 2013

SUBJECT: Clarification Regarding Dosing Intervals for Hepatitis A Vaccine (HAV)

Effective October 1, 2013, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is clarifying the policy for hepatitis A vaccination. This policy will allow every child to have up to 18 months after the first dose of hepatitis A vaccine to receive the second dose, before being considered delinquent for the series. This policy is consistent with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/hepa.html>.

The policy does not change the initial hepatitis A vaccine requirements for child-care or school entry requirement of two doses. For example, during 2013/14, children enrolled in child-care are required to obtain the first dose by 25 months of age. For public and private schools, children (kindergarten through 4th grade) are required to have 2 doses of hepatitis A vaccine.

Further, the minimum interval for VAQTA® and Havrix® is 6 months, and there is no maximum interval. At 6 months, parents may be reminded about the requirements for the second dose, but not required to have the second dose until 18 months after the first.

Please contact Wes Hodgson, School Immunization Compliance Coordinator, at (800) 252-9152 if you have any questions or need further information regarding immunization requirements.