

Date: September 8, 2008

New Requirement for Ordering Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)

Due to a nationwide limited supply of rabies vaccine, healthcare providers in San Diego County must now contact the Community Epidemiology Branch at 619-515-6620 (or 858-565-5255 after hours) to obtain a password for ordering rabies vaccine on a per-patient basis for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). **Rabies vaccine may not be stocked or replenished until further notice.** The Community Epidemiology Branch will assist in determining if rabies PEP is indicated, and as needed, give the healthcare provider a password currently required on the Sanofi Pasteur form for ordering vaccine. This password will change regularly and be provided on a case-by-case basis following consultation with the healthcare provider. The 2008 ACIP Human Rabies Prevention Recommendations are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr57e507.pdf>. The Sanofi Pasteur rabies vaccine order form is posted on EMAN in the "News" section and can also be obtained by contacting Sanofi Pasteur at 1-800-VACCINE.

Currently, Sanofi Pasteur (supplier of IMOVAX® rabies vaccine) is the primary rabies vaccine supplier in the United States. Novartis Vaccines will no longer be shipping routine supplies of RabAvert®. Due to the limited supply situation, both vaccines are currently unavailable for rabies pre-exposure prophylaxis. When vaccine supplies are available again for this purpose, those at highest occupational risk will be prioritized. To request prioritization for pre-exposure vaccine, please submit a pre-exposure prophylaxis Rabies Vaccine Request Form to the Community Epidemiology Branch. This form is posted on EMAN in the "News" section. For regular updates on the rabies vaccine situation, please visit the following website: <http://www.cdc.gov/rabies>.

E-Mail Notification of County News Releases Relevant to EMAN Participants

In an effort to keep EMAN participants informed of local communicable disease and other public health issues in a timely fashion, EMAN will soon start sending participants an e-mail notification when the County of San Diego issues news releases of potential relevance to EMAN participants. An EMAN username and password will be required to access the press release. The subject line will read "Subscription Notification from btrs on <http://sdeman.org>."

Thank you for your continued participation.

Emergency Medical Alert Network (EMAN)
County of San Diego, Health & Human Services Agency
Community Epidemiology Branch