



Grant County Health District – Always Working for a Healthier and Safer Grant County

Ephrata Office County Courthouse
PO Box 37, Ephrata, WA 98823
509-754-6060

Moses Lake Office
1038 West Ivy Suite 1, Moses Lake WA 98837
509-766-7960

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 08/12/08 TO: Emergency Rooms in Grant County Walk-in Clinics in Grant County Healthcare Provider Offices in Grant County	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT Alexander Brzezny, MD, MPH, Grant County Health Officer Peggy Grigg, RN, BSN, Director of Personal Health Services/Administrator
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- GRANT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT -

**This is an Official
Washington State Department of Health
ALERT**

**Rabies Vaccine Supply Update - August 12, 2008
(IMOVAX Rabies vaccine NOT available)**

The most recent update on the rabies vaccine status is now posted on the CDC website:

http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/news/2008-08-11_RabVaxupdate.html

- Due to a significant increase in demand and a minor production delay with IMOVAX Rabies vaccine, **Sanofi Pasteur currently does not have IMOVAX Rabies vaccine available**. Sanofi Pasteur expects to have IMOVAX Rabies vaccine doses available again in the late-September to early-October timeframe. In the meantime, please contact Novartis at 1-800-244-7668 to obtain Rabies vaccine doses for patients who have been exposed to rabies.
- Novartis is continuing shipments for post-exposure prophylaxis use through October 2008 (A confirmation code from state or local health departments will not be required). Additional doses of vaccine are anticipated to be available at that time and current supply concerns are expected to be alleviated with receipt of this additional material.
- Vaccine availability for pre-exposure vaccination continues to be limited, and will be distributed on approval from state and federal public health authorities for those with a critical need and in consideration of available supplies. These measures will allow responsible management of currently limited supplies of this vaccine for those individuals at highest risk of exposure.
- Both Novartis Vaccines and Sanofi Pasteur remain in close contact with public health authorities to ensure that guidelines for appropriate usage of vaccine for PEP is communicated to medical providers.
- Discussions among federal, state, and local public health personnel are ongoing to review additional strategies to manage this situation.