

Robert P. Astorino  
County Executive

Sherlita Amler, M.D.  
Commissioner of Health

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Dear Physician, Medical Director and Office Manager:

**To prevent invasive pneumococcal disease in your patients under age five, I strongly encourage you to review the immunization history of all children 14 through 59 months who come to your office for any reason to identify those that are eligible for, but have not yet received, the supplemental dose of PCV13 that has been recommended by experts since last year for all children under age 5.**

In 2010, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Infectious Diseases and the American Academy of Family Physicians all recommended children up to age five who have received four doses of PCV7 be given a single supplemental fifth dose of PCV13, since they remain at risk for invasive pneumococcal disease. At the same time, these experts recommended that use of PCV7 be discontinued immediately and each patient who had not yet received the full four-dose course would have remaining doses replaced by PCV13. For patients who have not yet begun the four-dose course, PCV7 should not be used and should be replaced with a four-dose course of PCV13 to be given at 2, 4, 6 and 12 through 15 months of age.

The CDC recently reviewed the latest data and determined that some eligible children have not yet received that recommended sixth dose. More than 60 cases of invasive pneumococcal disease have occurred among children under age five who had completed the previously recommended five dose series of PCV7, but who had not received the supplemental dose of PCV13. **The gap in receiving the supplemental dose is especially wide among children ages 24 through 59 months, the CDC found.**

That is why I urge you to review patient records and vaccinate your eligible patients appropriately. You can visit the Professional's Corner on our website, at [www.westchestergov.com/health](http://www.westchestergov.com/health) to read an article from the American Academy of Pediatrics, "Ensure eligible patients have received supplemental dose of PCV13," the MMWR report on this topic and directions on how to identify eligible patients through NYSIIS.

Please review and share these materials with all health care providers in your practice so that, together, we can prevent children under age five in Westchester from becoming ill with invasive pneumococcal disease.

Sincerely,



Sherlita Amler, M.D.  
Commissioner of Health