



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH**

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## **Notice of Special Meeting**

SBOH 08-03

**For immediate release:** February 18, 2008

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360-236-4104

### **Board to respond to shortage of Hib vaccine**

Thursday, February 21, 11 a.m. – noon, Point Plaza East, 310 Israel Road SE, Tumwater

The Washington State Board of Health will hold a special meeting on Thursday, February 21 to respond to a nationwide shortage of the vaccine against *Haemophilus influenzae* type B (Hib). It will consider a Department of Health proposal that would allow children who have deferred their fourth Hib vaccine to enter childcare without filing an exemption.

Because of the shortage, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reduced Washington's allocation of vaccine. In response, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends the fourth vaccination in the Hib series be deferred. This conflicts with a board rule for childcare and school entry that references an ACIP schedule published before the shortage. That schedule recommends a Hib booster for children ages 12 to 15 months. This means a fourth Hib vaccine is required for children older than 15 months.

The state health department may develop a plan that defers the fourth Hib vaccine, but the board must approve the plan. Since children could be excluded from childcare under the current arrangement, the board decided not to wait until its next regular meeting in March to take action.

The board meets Thursday, February 21 at 11 a.m. with board members participating by phone. The public may listen to the meeting at the Department of Health, Point Plaza East, 310 Israel Road SE, Room 152, Tumwater. [More information](#) is available on the board's Web site ([www.sboh.wa.gov](http://www.sboh.wa.gov)) or by calling 360-236-4104.

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The Board's mission is to provide statewide leadership in advancing policies that protect and improve the public's health. It does this by reviewing and monitoring the health status of all people in Washington; analyzing policies, providing guidance, and developing rules; promoting system partnerships; and encouraging public engagement in the public health system. For more information, visit the [Board of Health Web site](#) ([www.sboh.wa.gov](http://www.sboh.wa.gov)).