

**Dickinson County**

818 Pyle Drive, Kingsford, MI 49802  
Ph: (906) 774-1868 Fax: (906) 774-9910  
BRANCH OFFICE

[www.didhd.org](http://www.didhd.org)

**Iron County**

601 Washington Avenue, Iron River, MI 49935  
Ph: (906) 265-9913 Fax: (906) 265-2950  
MAIN OFFICE

## Urgent Notice

**To:** Medical Providers

**From:** Terry Frankovich, M.D., M.P.H.  
Medical Director  
Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

**Date:** August 22, 2008

### Re: Severe Rabies Vaccine Shortage

Novartis is currently the only supplier of rabies vaccine in the US. Vaccine is in critically short supply nationally, and in the state of Michigan. Providers will need an access code in order to obtain rabies PEP directly from Novartis.

Please call your local public health department first, to discuss individual exposure and patient risk assessment. If risk assessment indicates the need for PEP, the LHD will call the Michigan Department of Community Health, and MDCH staff will call the physician back, with the Novartis access code.

Please contact your local health department directly during normal business hours and the call will be forwarded appropriately.

Iron County: (906) 265-9913  
Dickinson County: (906) 774-1868

For urgent questions about vaccine after hours or on weekends, please contact me at one of the following numbers:

Home: 906-296-0389  
Cell: 906-370-8440

If you are unable to reach local health department staff, please call the state communicable disease staff (517-335-8165 regular hours) (517-335-9030 after hours) directly. There has been and continues to be conflicting information from different sources regarding how to obtain PEP for patients. Please use the above protocol to obtain PEP for patients. Further information regarding the vaccine shortage can be found at the CDC Website: [http://cdc.gov/rabies/news/2008-08-15\\_rabvaxupdate.html](http://cdc.gov/rabies/news/2008-08-15_rabvaxupdate.html)

Thank you for your help during this shortage.