



Dickinson County

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

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

Thank you for your help during this shortage.