



6 November 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian,

MUMPSVAX® no longer available from Merck

We are writing to you today to update you on the supply of the MUMPSVAX. We were shocked to learn this week that Merck has decided not to resume production of their single vaccines for measles (ATTENUVAX), mumps (MUMPSVAX) and rubella (MERUVAX). On Monday 2 November, Merck posted the following statement on the supply status page of their website:

*“Monovalent vaccines no longer available for measles, mumps, rubella -
Based on input from the Advisory Committee on Immunisation Practises (ACIP), professional societies, scientific leaders, and customers, Merck has decided not to resume production of ATTENUVAX® (Measles Virus Vaccine Live), MUMPSVAX® (Mumps Virus Vaccine Live), and MERUVAX®II (Rubella Virus Vaccine Live)...”*

To ensure the accuracy of this information, we made enquiries and were sent a copy of the enclosed letter from Dr Mark Feinberg of Merck Vaccines and Infectious Diseases <<http://www.breakspearmedical.com/files/documents/monovalentMessage.pdf>>, which has been prepared to explain their decision.

Merck was the only manufacturer of a single mumps vaccine that had a proven record of safety and efficacy. The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has confirmed that they are not aware of an alternative to MUMPSVAX® that has demonstrated appropriate safety. There will now be no further supplies of single mumps vaccines coming into the United Kingdom for the foreseeable future.

We believe that it is extremely important for children to have protection through immunisation, and we fear that parents may choose not to immunise their children at all, if they can not obtain single vaccines. We will continue to offer immunisations for measles and rubella which are readily available from other reputable manufacturers, as we believe that parents should be able to choose. For further information, please go to www.breakspearmedical.com/mmr

If you have prepaid for your child's mumps immunisation we will be happy to refund you the £90 for this vaccination. Please contact us and we can send you a cheque or we can refund your debit or credit card.

If your child has had an initial mumps immunisation and is on the waiting list for the booster, a simple blood test can be undertaken to determine immune status. In our experience, many children have maintained a good level of immunity to mumps and may not require a repeat immunisation. The charge for the IgG Mumps Antibodies test is £60. Please contact us if you would like to know more.

Yours sincerely

Alister Monro

Alister Monro
Managing Director