

RECALLED DTP VACCINES IN CHINA: ADVICE FOR PARENTS AND IMMUNIZATION SERVICE PROVIDERS

Dear Physician,

You have likely heard that two lots of vaccines that failed testing were recently recalled from use in China. These two lots may not offer complete protection. The vaccines were used in China from March to October 2017 for childhood vaccination and children who received the vaccines may need additional vaccine doses.

The recalled vaccines are for DTP (diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough)):

1. Lot # 201605014-01 produced by Changchun Changsheng Biotechnology Co., Ltd.
Purchased by: Shandong Provincial Center for Disease Control and Prevention
2. Lot # 201607050-2 produced by Wuhan Biological Products Research Institute Co., Ltd.
Purchased by: Chongqing (City) Disease Prevention and Control Centers & Hebei Provincial Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

There are no safety concerns related to these vaccines. China has not reported more cases of diphtheria, tetanus or whooping cough in relation to the use of these vaccines.

In China, these vaccines are routinely given to children at three, four, five and 18 months of age. **Children who resided in any of the three geographic areas (Chongqing, Shandong or Hebei) in the period of March to October 2017, were under 2 years of age, and were vaccinated at that time, may need to receive additional vaccine doses for full protection.** Chinese public health authorities are offering DTP revaccination to children who have received the affected lots of vaccine.

Advice for BC Parents: Parents whose children resided in Chongqing, Shandong or Hebei in the period from March to October 2017, were under 2 years old during that time, and were vaccinated during that time, are advised to check their child's immunization record. If they do not have immunization records, records can be obtained from Chinese public health authorities either by contacting the inoculation unit where the child was immunized or by calling the Chinese 12320 health hotline for parents.

Revaccination is recommended if children were immunized with a DTP vaccine containing the affected lot number, or if a lot number is not recorded but DTP vaccine was given any time from March to October 2017.

Advice to physicians: Consider any doses that meet the criteria outlined above to be 'invalid' doses, and proceed with immunizing the child based on their historical receipt of valid doses, in keeping with the schedule for their current age. An interrupted series does not need to be repeated, and the series can be completed now using valid doses.

If you have any questions, please contact Vancouver Public Health.