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UNCLAS ALARACT 017/2003
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UNCLAS ALARACT
SUBJ: ARMY AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED WITH SMALLPOX VACCINATION
PROGRAM (SVP) FOR ARMY CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES.
REF/A/DOC/DEPSECDEF/30 SEP 02/
APMN/DEPSECDEF MEMO, SUBJ: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SMALLPOX RESPONSE
PLAN
REF/B/DOC/ASD(HA)/26 NOV 02/
APMN/ASD(HA) MEMO, SUBJ: CLINICAL POLICY FOR THE DOD SMALLPOX
VACCINATION PROGRAM (SVP)
REF/C/DOC/USD(P&R)/13 DEC 02/
APMN/USD(P&R) MEMO, SUBJ: POLICY ON ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES RELATED TO
SMALLPOX VACCINATION PROGRAM (SVP)
REF/D/MSG/ASD(PA)/13 DC 02/
APMN/ASD(PA) MSG, SUBJ: WORLDWIDE PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE FOR THE
DOD
SMALLPOX VACCINATION PROGRAM (SVP)
REF/E/MSG/HQDA/212313Z DEC 02/
APMN/HQDA MSG, SUBJ: SMALLPOX VACCINATION PROGRAM (SVP)
REF/F/DOC/VCSA/10 JAN 03/
APMN/VCSA MEMO, SUBJ: ARMY SMALLPOX VACCINATION PROGRAM
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
REF/G/CLASSIFIED MSG/HQDA/171037Z JAN 03/
APMN/HQDA CLASSIFIED MSG, SUBJ: (U) ARMY TO BEGIN IMMEDIATE STAGE 2
SMALLPOX VACCINATIONS
1. REFS A, B, C, AND D ARE DOD SVP POLICIES AND GUIDANCE. REF E
ANNOUNCED THE DOD S SVP AND PROVIDED INITIAL SVP GUIDANCE TO THE

ARMY. REF F FORWARDED THE VCSA-APPROVED ARMY SVP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN DIRECTING IMMEDIATE SVP EXECUTION FOR SERVICEMEMBERS ONLY. REF G PROVIDED CLASSIFIED SVP STAGE 2 EXECUTION GUIDANCE. ALL UNCLASSIFIED REFS ARE ON THE DOD WEBSITE, WWW.SMALLPOX.ARMY.MIL.

2. THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES ARMY AUTHORIZATION TO IMPLEMENT REF F, THE ARMY SMALLPOX VACCINATION PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION PLAN, FOR ARMY CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES. BEFORE IMPLEMENTING FOR CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES COVERED BY A BARGAINING UNIT, COMMANDERS MUST SATISFY ALL BARGAINING OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE FEDERAL SERVICES LABOR MANAGEMENT RELATIONS STATUTE AND APPLICABLE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS.

3. IN REVIEW, THE ARMY IS NOW EXECUTING THE SVP IN THE FOLLOWING 3 STAGES:

A. STAGE 1A: SMALLPOX RESPONSE TEAMS-DESIGNATED SPECIAL MISSION UNITS, MEDICAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION TEAMS, AND THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD CIVIL SUPPORT TEAMS.

B. STAGE 1B: SELECTED HEALTHCARE WORKERS. DOD WILL VACCINATE SELECTED HEALTHCARE WORKERS AT MOST INSTALLATIONS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH INPATIENT CAPABILITIES. THIS WILL GIVE DOD THE CAPABILITY TO RESPOND TO A SMALLPOX ATTACK IAW THE DOD SMALLPOX RESPONSE PLAN.

C. STAGE 2: AS PERTAINS TO U.S. CENTRAL COMMAND S MISSION, DESIGNATED FORCES HAVING CERTAIN MISSION-CRITICAL CAPABILITIES WILL BE VACCINATED. THIS INCLUDES CERTAIN FORCES DEPLOYED OR ASSIGNED OVERSEAS, FORCES THAT WOULD BE EXPECTED TO DEPLOY IN A CONTINGENCY, AND FORCES THAT ENABLE SUCH CONTINGENCY FORCES TO DEPLOY.

4. ARMY CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES CLASSIFIED AS EMERGENCY-ESSENTIAL UNDER DOD DIRECTIVE 1404.10 AND ARMY CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES WHO ARE DESIGNATED MEMBERS OF SMALLPOX RESPONSE TEAMS ARE SUBJECT TO THE SVP. SUBJECT TO CERTAIN MEDICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXEMPTIONS AND THE STAGED IMPLEMENTATION DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 3, VACCINATIONS ARE MANDATORY FOR ARMY CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES CLASSIFIED AS EMERGENCY ESSENTIAL UNDER DOD DIRECTIVE 1404.10 AND VOLUNTARY FOR ARMY CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES WHO ARE DESIGNATED MEMBERS OF SMALLPOX RESPONSE TEAMS.

5. MISSION ESSENTIAL SERVICES (AND ASSOCIATED CONTRACTS) MUST BE IDENTIFIED AND CONTRACTS MODIFIED TO REQUIRE THE VACCINATION OF CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL.

6. BECAUSE SMALLPOX IS CONTAGIOUS AND DEADLY, KILLING ABOUT 30% OF THOSE INFECTED, A SMALLPOX ATTACK WOULD SEVERELY DISRUPT MILITARY

MISSIONS. 65% OF THE MILITARY HAVE NEVER RECEIVED SMALLPOX VACCINATION; THE REMAINING 35% DID YEARS AGO, BUT HAVE WANING IMMUNITY AND ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO INFECTION.

A. SMALLPOX VACCINE PREVENTS SMALLPOX, BUT REQUIRES CAREFUL USE.

DOD S SVP WILL USE FDA-LICENSED WYETH DRYVAX. SMALLPOX VACCINE.

SMALLPOX VACCINE IS GIVEN IN ONE DOSE. DRYVAX. IS A LIVE VIRUS VACCINE USING VACCINIA VIRUS, WHICH CROSS-PROTECTS TO THE DANGEROUS SMALLPOX VIRUS, CALLED VARIOLA. EMPHASIZED: THERE IS NO SMALLPOX VIRUS IN THIS VACCINE, SO YOU CANNOT GET SMALLPOX FROM USING THIS VACCINE.

B. A SUCCESSFUL, EXPECTED RESPONSE TO THIS VACCINE IS A PUS-FILLED BLISTER AT THE VACCINATION SITE, WHICH SCABS OVER AND FALLS OFF, LEAVING A PERMANENT SCAR AFTER 2-3 WEEKS. MOST PEOPLE WILL EXPERIENCE MILD REACTIONS, SUCH AS SORE ARM, FEVER, HEADACHE, BODY ACHE, AND FATIGUE FROM VACCINATION. THESE SYMPTOMS MAY PEAK THE 8-12TH DAY AFTER VACCINATION. ASSESSMENT OF THE VACCINATION SITE AT DAY 6 TO 8 WILL BE IMPORTANT TO ENSURE THAT EACH VACCINATED PERSON HAS DEVELOPED PROTECTIVE IMMUNITY.

C. VERY RARELY, SMALLPOX VACCINE CAN CAUSE SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS. IN THE PAST, BETWEEN 14-52 PEOPLE PER MILLION VACCINATED FOR THE FIRST TIME EXPERIENCED POTENTIALLY LIFE-THREATENING REACTIONS. FROM PAST EXPERIENCE, 1 OR 2 PEOPLE PER MILLION WHO RECEIVE SMALLPOX VACCINE MAY DIE AS A RESULT. DOD WILL MINIMIZE SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS BY CAREFULLY SCREENING AND EXEMPTING PERSONNEL WHO SHOULD NOT GET SMALLPOX VACCINE, EDUCATING THOSE WHO DO ON PROPER VACCINATION SITE CARE, AND MONITORING FOR ADVERSE REACTIONS.

D. BECAUSE LIVE VACCINIA VIRUS IS PRESENT AT THE VACCINATION SITE UNTIL THE SCAB FALLS OFF, VACCINEES WILL BE TAUGHT AND GIVEN WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS TO PREVENT SPREADING THE VIRUS TO OTHER PARTS OF THEIR OWN BODY OR TRANSFERRING THE VIRUS TO SOMEONE ELSE, INCLUDING THESE THREE KEY POINTS:

(1) DON T TOUCH YOUR VACCINATION SITE.

(2) IF YOU TOUCH THE VACCINATION SITE BY ACCIDENT, WASH YOUR HANDS RIGHT AWAY.

(3) DON T LET OTHERS TOUCH YOUR VACCINATION SITE OR MATERIALS THAT TOUCHED IT.

MOST VACCINATION SITES CAN BE LEFT UNBANDAGED, ESPECIALLY WHEN NOT IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH OTHER PEOPLE. WHEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH

OTHERS, SLEEVES SHOULD BE WORN COVERING THE SITE AND/OR USE OF AN ABSORBENT BANDAGE TO MAKE A TOUCH-RESISTANT BARRIER.

7. THE SVP IS A COMMANDER S RESPONSIBILITY. SUCCESSFUL SVP EXECUTION DEPENDS ON DUE ATTENTION GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING KEY PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

- A. ENSURE ARMY LEADERS (OFFICERS, NCOS, AND CIVILIAN SUPERVISORS) ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE DOD AND ARMY SVP POLICIES, REFS A THROUGH G.
- B. ENSURE ARMY LEADERS ARE FAMILIAR IMMEDIATELY WITH RESOURCES AT THE DOD WEBSITE WWW.SMALLPOX.ARMY.MIL. AS WITH THE ANTHRAX VACCINE IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM, EXPERIENCE SHOWS THAT EDUCATION IS PIVOTAL TO SUCCESS AND SOLDIER ACCEPTABILITY. THE WEBSITE PROVIDES ARMY LEADERS A MENU OF EDUCATION TOOLS: TOLL-FREE INFORMATION NUMBER, 1 (877) GET-VACC; EMAIL INFORMATION SERVICE, VACCINES@AMEDD.ARMY.MIL; INDIVIDUAL AND HEALTHCARE PROVIDER POWERPOINT BRIEFINGS POSTED TO THE WEBSITE; TRIFOLD EDUCATIONAL BROCHURES AND MORE. A GOOD FIRST STEP IS TO REVIEW QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS POSTED ON THE WEBSITE, AS THESE ARE THE MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS BY VACCINE RECIPIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES. THE ARMY SURGEON GENERAL S OFFICE SHIPPED EDUCATIONAL PRODUCTS WORLDWIDE TO INSTALLATION MEDICAL FACILITIES FOR LEADERS TO USE.
- C. ENSURE MEDICAL PERSONNEL UNDERSTAND THE POTENTIAL ADVERSE EVENTS AFTER VACCINATION: HOW TO MINIMIZE THEM, RESPOND TO THEM, AND REPORT THEM TO THE FDA S VACCINE ADVERSE EVENT REPORTING SYSTEM (VAERS) AND IAW AR 40-562. MEDICAL PERSONNEL WILL NOT ONLY ADMINISTER THE VACCINE, BUT WILL LIKELY BE OUR FRONT LINE TO VACCINE RECIPIENTS QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS. TREAT EACH CONCERN WITH CARE: SOME SYMPTOMS FOLLOWING SMALLPOX VACCINATION MAY OR MAY NOT BE CAUSED BY THE VACCINATION, BUT ALL DESERVE INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION. MEDICAL PERSONNEL SHOULD LIKEWISE BECOME FAMILIAR NOW WITH RESOURCES AT THE DOD WEBSITE, PARTICULARLY THE HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS POWERPOINT BRIEFING.
- D. ENSURE ALL UNIT IMMUNIZATIONS ARE POSTED AND TRACKED IN THE MEDICAL PROTECTION SYSTEM (MEDPROS), THE HQDA STANDARD FOR TRACKING ALL INDIVIDUAL MEDICAL READINESS INDICATORS IN THE ACTIVE AND RESERVE COMPONENTS. LEADERS AT ALL LEVELS CAN TRACK INDIVIDUAL AND UNIT COMPLIANCE USING MEDPROS, A MODERN, EASY TO USE, WEB-BASED TRACKING SYSTEM, ACCESSED FROM THE WEB AT WWW.MODS.ARMY.MIL. USERS

MAY REQUEST LOGON ID DIRECTLY FROM THE WEB OR BY CALLING THE MODS HELP DESK AT DSN 761-4976 OR 1-888-849-4341 FOR ASSISTANCE. IF YOU GET BEHIND ENTERING/UPDATING IMMUNIZATION DATA, NEED MEDPROS TRAINING, OR NEED HELP GETTING STARTED, CONTACT THE MODS HELP DESK FOR ASSISTANCE.

E. ENSURE YOUR MEDICAL LOGISTICS SUPPORTING ELEMENT HAS SUFFICIENT REFRIGERATION CAPACITY TO PRESERVE VACCINE INTEGRITY, INCLUDING TEMPERATURE ALARMS AND BACK UP POWER CAPACITY.

F. DOD ISSUED WORLDWIDE PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE FOR THE SVP IN REF D. THESE MESSAGES PROVIDE GUIDANCE AND APPROVED Q AND A FOR ADDRESSING THE MEDIA AND/OR GENERAL PUBLIC.

8. HQDA POCS FOR THIS MESSAGE ARE COL RANDY RANDOLPH, COL JOHN GRABENSTEIN, OR MAJ ERIC SONES, 703-681-5101 OR DSN 761-5101, OR EMAIL: VACCINES@OTSG.AMEDD.ARMY.MIL.

9. EXPIRATION DATE CANNOT BE DETERMINED.

BT