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IMMUNIZATION UPDATES: RABIES -- September 2011
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1. ACIP Guidelines for Rabies Vaccination

In May 2008, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for Human Rabies Prevention in the United States were published in the MMWR. This guide reviews US licensed rabies vaccines, pre and postexposure treatment recommendations, serologic testing, and precautions and contraindications to vaccination. In March 2010, the ACIP updated its recommendations for postexposure prophylaxis (PEP) . The new recommendation reduces the number of PEP vaccine doses for those previously unvaccinated, from five to four. The reduction was based on evidence from rabies virus pathogenesis data, experimental animal work, clinical studies, and epidemiologic surveillance. These studies indicated that 4 vaccine doses in combination with rabies immune globulin (RIG) elicited adequate immune responses and that a fifth dose of vaccine did not contribute to more favorable outcomes. The first dose of the 4-dose course should be administered as soon as possible after exposure (day 0). Administer remaining doses on days 3, 7, and 14 after the first vaccination. ACIP recommendations for the use of RIG remain unchanged.

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5902a1.htm

2. US Army PHC Rabies Information Page

The potential for rabies virus infection is a challenge when serving in areas where the disease is prevalent in the animal population. Education to our service members on how to prevent exposure and what to do if bitten is critical in preventing this almost always fatal disease. For a wide range of education tools,

frequently asked questions, treatment information and the Rabies Outreach Program please visit the US Army Public Health Command rabies information page.

<http://phc.amedd.army.mil/topics/discond/aid/Pages/Rabies.aspx>

### 3. CDC Multimedia Rabies Education Resources for HCP

The CDC provides a number of multimedia educational resources for healthcare personnel to learn more about the rabies virus, treatment and prevention. The resources available include podcasts, videos, feature articles & blog posts, badges/buttons for your website, and health e-cards to share rabies prevention information.

<http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/resources/multimedia.html#videos>

### 4. Outdoor Channel's BoonDOCS Wilderness & Travel show: Focus Rabies

Dr. Andrew Krakowski, a wilderness medicine expert, and his crew partnered with Outdoor Channel to provide you with some basic information on the rabies virus and what you can do to protect yourself. Combining humor with real life know-how and accessible explanations this webisode provides you with a quick overview of this deadly but preventable disease.

[http://boondocsmedicine.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=93](http://boondocsmedicine.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=93)

### 5. Global Alliance for Rabies Control Educational Video Series

In support of the World Rabies Day initiative, Peter Costa, Communications Director at the Global Alliance for Rabies Control, provides information about how you can protect yourself, your pets and your community from the rabies virus. This series of 7 videos discusses how rabies is transmitted, which animals are most likely to be rabid, symptoms and diagnoses, prevention measures, World Rabies Day and medical advancements.

[http://www.worldrabiesday.org/EN/media\\_center/videos.html](http://www.worldrabiesday.org/EN/media_center/videos.html)

### 6. MILVAX Training Opportunities

Immunization Basic Course

Fort Drum, NY  
2 Nov 2011

<http://www.vaccines.mil/ibc>

#### Immunization Leaders Course

Fort Drum, NY  
1-3 Nov 2011

<http://www.vaccines.mil/ilc>

For a complete description of all the courses offered by MILVAX please see the MILVAX website and check out the many education opportunities that are available within Immunization University.

<http://www.vaccines.mil/training>

#### 7. CME / CE Opportunity: Rabies Postexposure Prophylaxis (PEP) Basics

This online course is designed to educate healthcare providers and public health professionals about rabies, the approach used in evaluating patients for rabies virus exposure, and the administration of rabies postexposure prophylaxis (PEP) as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). This course was developed as a collaboration of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Assistance was also provided by Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, and Suburban Hospital-Johns Hopkins Medicine.

<http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/resources/training/index.html>

#### 8. Upcoming Conferences

Symposium on Human Rabies Prevention and Control  
San Juan, Puerto Rico  
22 Oct 2011

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/159941264>

APHA 139th Annual Meeting & Exposition  
Washington, DC  
29 Oct - 2 Nov 2011

<http://www.apha.org/meetings/AnnualMeeting/>

Epidemiology & Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases Annual Conference  
Reno, NV

2-4 Nov 2011

<http://www.immunizenevada.org/nile-conference>

Clinical Vaccinology Course  
Atlanta, GA  
4-6 Nov 2011

<http://www.cvent.com/events/clinical-vaccinology-course/event-summary-50ff1f08425e4a30a3ae5f4b701095a1.aspx>

Military Vaccine Agency  
<http://www.vaccines.mil>  
<http://www.smallpox.mil>  
<http://www.anthrax.mil>

(877)GET-VACC  
<mailto:vaccines@amedd.army.mil>

Please feel free to pass this message on to your colleagues. Add or remove your name from this mailing list -- <http://www.vaccines.mil/ContactUs>