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SUBJECT: TEMPORARILY STOP GIVING ANTHRAX IMMUNIZATIONS TO ALL DOD
PERSONNEL
TEXT:
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FM HQ USAF WASHINGTON DC//XO//
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AEFC

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REF A: SECDEF MEMO, SUBJ: ANTHRAX VACCINE IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM PAUSE,
27 OCT 04

SUBJ: TEMPORARILY STOP GIVING ANTHRAX IMMUNIZATIONS TO ALL DOD
PERSONNEL

1. ON 27 OCT 04, THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA ISSUED AN INJUNCTION AGAINST THE CURRENT OPERATION OF THE
ANTHRAX VACCINE IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM. IAW REF A, THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS
ARE DIRECTED IMMEDIATELY:

1.1. UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, STOP GIVING ANTHRAX VACCINATIONS (BOTH
MANDATORY AND VOLUNTARY) TO ALL MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL, TO
INCLUDE FAMILY MEMBERS AND CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL. THIS APPLIES TO
PERSONNEL NOT PREVIOUSLY VACCINATED AND PERSONNEL CURRENTLY UNDERGOING
THE SIX-SHOT BASIC SERIES AND ANNUAL BOOSTER. THIS APPLIES TO ALL
PERSONNEL REGARDLESS OF THEIR CURRENT LOCATION OR DEPLOYMENT SITUATION.
DO NOT IMPLEMENT VOLUNTARY VACCINATIONS VIA INFORMED CONSENT
PROCEDURES.

1.2. ANTHRAX VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN TURNED OFF IN THE AIR
FORCE COMPLETE IMMUNIZATION TRACKING APPLICATION (AFCITA). PERSONNEL
WHO BECOME DUE FOR THEIR NEXT SHOT WILL NO LONGER BE VISIBLE ON THE
UNIT INDIVIDUAL MEDICAL READINESS (IMR) REQUIREMENTS ROSTER, AND AN
INDIVIDUAL S OVERDUE STATUS WILL NO LONGER AFFECT THE UNIT IMR RATE.

1.3. ENSURE ALL VACCINATIONS PREVIOUSLY ADMINISTERED ARE ACCURATELY RECORDED IN THE MEDICAL RECORD AND ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED TO THE DEFENSE ELIGIBILITY ENROLLMENT SYSTEM (DEERS) VIA AFCITA. THIS WILL ALLOW FOR TRACKING OF THOSE PERSONNEL WHO HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEGUN THE ANTHRAX VACCINE SERIES.

1.4. IMPLEMENT PUBLIC AFFAIRS ACTIONS THAT INFORM ALL PERSONNEL OF THE NECESSITY OF THIS TEMPORARY SUSPENSION PENDING THE CLARIFICATION OF THE LEGAL SITUATION. INFORM ALL PERSONNEL THAT THE SAFETY OF THE VACCINE IS NOT THE FOCUS OF THE INJUNCTION. THE NEW INJUNCTION IS BASED ON THE COMPLETENESS OF THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION S (FDA) PROCESS TO APPROVE THE VACCINE FOR USE AGAINST INHALATION ANTHRAX.

1.5. FOR ANY PENDING MILITARY JUSTICE ISSUES, CONSULT WITH APPROPRIATE LEGAL AUTHORITIES.

1.6. MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITIES WILL CONSOLIDATE AND REPORT THE INVENTORY OF ALL UNOPENED VIALS OF ANTHRAX VACCINE, BY LOT NUMBER, THROUGH MAJCOM MEDICAL LOGISTICS TO AFMSA/SGSLC NLT 5 NOV 04. UNOPENED VIALS WILL BE STORED IN PLACE UNTIL FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS ARE ISSUED.

2. THIS US DISTRICT COURT INJUNCTION IS SIMILAR TO THE ONE ISSUED IN DEC 03, AT WHICH TIME DOD PAUSED THE VACCINATION PROGRAM PENDING CLARIFICATION OF LEGAL ISSUES.

3. A COMPLETE ARCHIVE OF AF GUIDANCE ON THE ANTHRAX VACCINATION PROGRAM, INCLUDING THIS MESSAGE, IS AVAILABLE AT:
https://www.xo.hq.af.mil/xos/xosf/xosfc/CCBRNE_resource/biological/anthrax/index.shtml

4. HAF/XO POC FOR THIS MESSAGE IS LT COL DONNA HUDSON (XOS-FC), 703-692-0371 (DSN 222), OR EMAIL: DONNA.HUDSON@PENTAGON.AF.MIL

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