

Position statement 03-ID-03. Smallpox Surveillance

Progress Report:

This position statement recommended that 1) smallpox be placed on the NNDSS, 2) that states/territories add smallpox to their reportable disease lists, 3) that states and CDC work to develop post-event surveillance protocols, and 4) that states and CDC work to develop a plan to collect aggregate pre-event (rash illness) surveillance.

Progress to date: 1) Smallpox is on NNDSS; 2) A survey of states to see if smallpox has been made reportable was sent to all states in March, 2003 and should be available in calendar year 2003; 3) CDC has developed, with state input, a set of post event smallpox surveillance forms and protocols. These may be posted soon on the CDC website. Discussion is underway whether to send the forms out to states electronically for one more round of comments; 4) CDC has proposed that states report aggregated numbers of rash illness that raise suspicion of smallpox to CDC quarterly. Several states have suggested that CDC might first want to survey states to see what kinds of formal steps have been taken to conduct pre-event smallpox surveillance. Options are still being discussed.

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