

Update on ASTHO/CSTE/NACCHO/APHL Conf Calls (questions from Feb. 10, 2003)

Vaccine

Vaccination Procedures

In the National Clinician's Awareness Campaign for Smallpox, it appears that physicians are asked to sign up for additional email notifications related to smallpox. How is this not duplicative with the HAN efforts at the state level?(2/10/03)

This email request is to give physicians access to a secure website, which will offer them more up-to-date information, if they so seek it. Perhaps HAN can identify when this website has been updated.

Contraindications

Post Vaccination

Response to Vaccination

For the one DoD ocular Adverse Event, was DOD able to confirm vaccinia with culture or technical testing? (2/10/03)

Yes.

Please provide additional information/ commentary on the generalized vaccinia case at Fort Bragg, NC. (2/10/03)

The military has seen three cases that have developed a vesicular or pustular rash. They are very mild but are technically considered generalized vaccinia. The first was a physician's assistant, who stayed on the job but did not have patient contact as a safety precaution. The other two were combat soldiers overseas. Neither lost any time at work.

Have all the cases of generalized vaccinia been clinical diagnoses? (2/10/03)

Yes, all have been clinically diagnosed. There have not been any that have tested positive in a lab culture or PCR, despite the lab procedures for Quality Control.

What is South Dakota doing for those vaccines with accelerated scabs (the 2 equivocal takes)? (2/10/03)

South Dakota sent digital photos to CDC. These were equivocal because the reaction was on an accelerated timeframe from what was expected. The military had about 3% whose reaction peaked at approximately Day 4. Anything later than 48-72 hours was considered a take for the military.

Smallpox Disease

A poster was included in the smallpox information packet that shows the difference between smallpox and chickenpox. States are concerned that physicians need more education around vaccinia, not smallpox. (2/10/03)

The intent of this campaign was to offer a general awareness packet around smallpox and the smallpox vaccination. The different pieces may need to be more clearly explained. Specifically,

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the poster was included to stand as the first material that will help physicians diagnose the disease, in addition to treatment of Adverse Events. Since this is a mailing that will not be repeated in the near future, it was important to distribute as much information as appropriate.

Vaccination Program

Liability and Section 304 of the Homeland Security Act Compensation

What is recommended in the case of a person who would like to get vaccinated as a DMAT team member but works for a non-participating hospital? Under whose workers' compensation would they be covered? (2/10/03)

1) States can decide if they wish to vaccinate DMAT team members as part of their response teams. 2) DMAT personnel who are vaccinated as part of the Federal response will be eligible for the Federal Employee Compensation Act.

Are hospital workers in those states that are vaccinating already following administrative leave recommendations? (2/10/03)

In South Dakota, there have been very few, if any, administrative leave requests. In New Jersey, they added a question to their evaluation process regarding sick versus administrative leave. Approximately 50 hospitals have agreed to participate in the program, ranging from one vaccinee to 100 per hospital. 25 have said they will not participate because of the cost of an administrative leave policy. Those hospitals that were involved in the anthrax scare last year seem to be more understanding and to have more volunteers. CDC will collect more data on this issue.

Miscellaneous

How many VA employees are expected to participate in the smallpox vaccination program? (2/10/03)

Approximately 9,000 employees of the Veterans Administration (this is equal to 100 persons at each Stage 1 participating medical center) are expected to participate from the primary medical centers in metropolitan areas.

There is some confusion from hospital to hospital as to how the VA is involved. Has a training been initiated on this? (2/10/03)

The VA's draft plan has been on the VA website for 3 months. The VA efforts have been broken up by state, and each state has a liaison with the state health department. The efforts are being done in a cascading effort, starting with those hospitals that are working with the state/local smallpox response teams. No national training has been conducted. The participating hospitals have been individually identified and notified, and training has started there.

Would it be helpful for states to have a list of the participating VA hospitals? (2/10/03)

Yes, this is in the draft plan. Attached is a list of participating VA hospitals.

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