

Update on ASTHO/CSTE/NACCHO/APHL Conference Calls (questions from Jan. 31, 2003)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Frequently Asked Questions supporting the National Smallpox Vaccination Program – To be posted on Member-only websites of ASTHO, NACCHO, CSTE, and APHL

Vaccination Procedures

If we use the safety needle with vaccine, will it lead to delays? (1-31-03)

The bifurcated needle supplied with the smallpox vaccine kit is only needle approved for use that is approved for use.

Response to Vaccination

What are “suspect” reactions? (1-31-03)

Adverse events are reported as suspect and confirmation determination will be made as more information is gathered through follow-up.

Vaccination Program

Can lab staff working in the hospitals, who are not part of the health response team be vaccinated? Can the states go beyond the ACIP recommendations? (1-31-03)

ACIP recommendations address the members of the health care response teams. Lab staff who will not be part of the health care response teams do not need to be vaccinated. However, States can make this decision based on their smallpox plan.

Should lab staff working with vaccinia diagnostics be vaccinated? (1-31-03)

Yes, they are considered part of the response team and should receive the vaccine.

What is the National Clinician Awareness Campaign? (1-31-03)

The intent of the campaign is to provide clinicians with a packet of information to increase the awareness of physicians, physician’s assistants and frontline nurses. The packet will be mailed by the end of February and will contain the Rash Evaluation Poster and basic information on normal and adverse events.

How will an adverse event that comes through the clinician line be reported? (1-31-03)

A VAERS report will be generated for adverse events reported through the clinician line.

Will adverse event information be sent to the states when it is posted to the Web? (1-31-03)

Adverse event data will be sent to the states daily using EpiX.

If a state is not using PVS, should they use EpiX for reports? (1-31-03)

There is a menu via the SDN for the additional functions for those users not using PVS. The purpose of PVS or your own system is the seamless transmission of the number of persons vaccinated in real time. This will ensure the numbers are accurate.

CDC -- Not for further distribution or dissemination

Will we have to re-key the information? (1-31-03)

No need to re-key for users of existing systems but states not using the monitoring system, will have to re-key information.

Can all users access all functions on the SDN menu? (1-31-03)

User functions are based on the role of the user. The Grantee point of contact, usually the AE coordinator, and the PVS administrator (whether using PVS or state system) will be given access to all functions on the SDN menu. An e-mail sent to the point of contact will explain how to add additional users to the system.

Can CDC handle requests for multiple digital certificates from a State? (1-31-03)

Yes. Once the State enters the data into the system, CDC will provide the digital certificate within 24 to 48 hours.

Will there be specific instructions for those who have EpiX certificates? (1-31-03)

If you have an EpiX certificate, there is nothing more you have to do. You do not need to request the functions. Users will be granted access to the functions regardless of their current capability.