



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

MAY 16 2014

HEALTH AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, U.S. CENTRAL COMMAND

SUBJECT: Exception to Policy Guidance to the Mandatory Smallpox Vaccination Program in the U.S. Central Command Area of Responsibility

Upon consideration of the intelligence assessment provided, other intelligence products, and in alignment with current biological defense vaccination policy guidance, I approve the U.S. Central Command's (USCENTCOM) request for exception to policy for the Smallpox Vaccination Program. Smallpox vaccinations for Department of Defense personnel assigned or deploying to the USCENTCOM area of responsibility are no longer mandatory.

My point of contact for this issue is Colonel (COL) Peter Schultheiss. COL Schultheiss may be reached at (703) 681-8179, or Peter.Schultheiss@ha.osd.mil.


Jonathan Woodson, M.D.

cc:
Joint Staff, J4/Health Services Support Division
Director, Military Vaccine Agency

INFORMATION PAPER

MILVAX-VHCN
27 May 2014

SUBJECT: U.S. Central Command Smallpox Vaccine Exception to Policy

1. Purpose. To provide guidance on the U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) Smallpox Vaccine Exception to Policy (ETP).

2. Facts.

a. On 16 May 2014, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs signed a memorandum for the Commander of USCENTCOM approving the ETP for the Smallpox Vaccination Program.

(1) Mandatory smallpox vaccination for personnel deploying to the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility (AOR) has ceased as of 16 May 2014.

(2) All personnel, to include DOD Service members, civilians, and contractors assigned or deploying to the USCENTCOM AOR, are no longer required to receive a mandatory smallpox vaccination.

b. The USCENTCOM Individual Protection and Individual-Unit Deployment Policy states: "15.F.4. Smallpox. Personnel without a medical contraindication traveling in the CENTCOM theater for 15 days or more will comply with the most current DoD smallpox requirements." Therefore, units can begin to comply with the ETP immediately. No further guidance is expected from USCENTCOM.

c. The Smallpox Vaccination Program remains in effect for travel to the Korean Peninsula for 15 or more days. In addition, certain uniformed personnel assigned to special mission units will continue mandatory smallpox vaccinations.

d. The Services may choose to designate units deploying to USCENTCOM for continued vaccination against smallpox.

e. The Anthrax Vaccination Program policy remains in effect for the USCENTCOM AOR.

f. Smallpox Vaccine Disposition.

(1) Do not destroy or discard any remaining vaccine. All smallpox vaccine will continue to be stored according to the package insert. Expired vaccine may be destroyed according to the protocol outlined in the Vaccine Destruction SOP: http://www.usamma.amedd.army.mil/net/assets/doc/pdf/PotentiallyCompromised/Vaccine_Disposition_SOP_19Feb2010.pdf

(2) Additional vaccine disposition instructions will be released from U.S. Army Medical Material Agency (USAMMA) Distribution Operations Center (DOC) via a

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Medical Material Quality Control (MMQC) message.

http://www.usamma.amedd.army.mil/assets/apps/nala_qaweb/nala_query_type.cfm

3. References.

a. U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense, Health Affairs Jonathan Woodson, "Exception to Policy Guidance to the Mandatory Smallpox Vaccination Program in the U.S. Central Command Area of Responsibility," memorandum for Commander, U.S. Central Command, Washington, DC, May 16, 2014.

b. "MOD Twelve to USCENTCOM Individual Protection and Individual-Unit Deployment Policy," U.S. Central Command, December 2, 2014.

Tara Reavey / (703)681-5714

Approved by Lt Col Costello