DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1010

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MEMORANDUM FOR: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Clarifying Guidance for Smallpox and Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Programs

References: See Attachment 1

This memorandum clarifies mandatory requirements and voluntary availability for anthrax and smallpox immunizations of Department of Defense personnel and family members, and Department of Defense contractor personnel. The mandatory requirements are based on information received from the Combatant Commands. For the purposes of mandatory requirements for anthrax and smallpox vaccinations, "Department of Defense personnel" includes all Military Service members of the Regular or Reserve Components (including the National Guard) but only emergency-essential and non-combat-essential, or equivalent, Department of Defense civilian employees.[1] "Department of Defense contractor personnel" includes only those contractor personnel performing services that support mission-essential functions.[2]

References (a) and (b), respectively, removed smallpox vaccination as a mandatory requirement for Department of Defense personnel and Department of Defense contractor personnel assigned to or deploying to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility and mandatory smallpox and anthrax vaccination requirements for Department of Defense personnel and Department of Defense contractor personnel assigned to or deploying to an operational area in the U.S. Africa Command. Currently, the only mandatory requirements for anthrax and smallpox vaccinations of Department of Defense personnel and Department of Defense contractor personnel are as follows:

1. Anthrax vaccinations are required for Department of Defense personnel and Department of Defense contractor personnel assigned to or deploying to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility for 15 consecutive days or longer.

2. Smallpox and anthrax vaccinations are required for Department of Defense personnel and Department of Defense contractor personnel assigned to or deploying to the Korean peninsula for 15 consecutive days or longer, to include forward-deployed naval forces.

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[1] Department of Defense civilian employees are those designated as emergency-essential pursuant to section 1580 of Reference (e) or those designated non-combat-essential in accordance with Reference (f), or equivalent. Vaccination of civilian employees is subject to applicable civilian personnel system procedural requirements and local bargaining obligations. Department of Defense civilian employees subject to mandatory smallpox or anthrax vaccinations must be given notice comparable to that required by section 1580a of Reference (e).

[2] Department of Defense contractor personnel performing services that support mission-essential functions in accordance with Reference (g), will be vaccinated when applicable contracts specify such vaccinations as a requirement. Vaccination of contractor personnel is subject to applicable acquisition system procedural requirements and applicable acquisition regulations.

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3. Department of Defense personnel and Department of Defense contractor personnel with designated rapid response or support missions in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility or the Korean peninsula will receive smallpox and anthrax vaccinations as required by the supported command.

4. Smallpox and anthrax vaccinations are required for Department of Defense personnel and Department of Defense contractor personnel performing duties or services that support the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Response Enterprise in accordance with References (c) and (d).

Anthrax vaccination is voluntary for all other Department of Defense civilian employees and Department of Defense contractor personnel not covered by the mandatory requirements listed above when assigned to or deployed to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, and to family members accompanying any Department of Defense personnel to this area of responsibility. Anthrax vaccine will be offered to those individuals eligible for voluntary vaccination.

Anthrax and smallpox vaccinations are voluntary for all other Department of Defense civilian employees and Department of Defense contractor personnel not covered by the mandatory requirements listed above when assigned to or deployed to the Korean peninsula, and to family members accompanying any Department of Defense personnel to this peninsula. Anthrax and smallpox vaccines will be offered to those individuals eligible for voluntary vaccinations.

This memorandum cancels the previous guidance contained in References (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), and (m).

Compliance is mandatory for Department of Defense personnel and Department of Defense contractor personnel, consistent with the terms specified above. Compliance with applicable U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations pursuant to Reference (n) and applicable clinical guidance provided by the Immunization Healthcare Branch of the Defense Health Agency is required. For more information on the programs, to include clinical and administrative guidance, please visit www.vaccines.mil.

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Attachment 1

(a) Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Memorandum, "Exception to Policy Guidance to the Mandatory Smallpox Vaccination Program in the U.S. Central Command Area of Responsibility," May 16, 2014
(b) Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Memorandum, "Exception to Policy Guidance for the Smallpox Vaccination Program and Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program for Department of Defense Personnel Deploying to the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa Combined Joint Operations Area," August 15, 2013
(c) Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum "Smallpox and Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Programs for the U.S. Northern Command Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Response Enterprise," November 18, 2012
(d) Acting Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum "Additional Policy Guidance for Smallpox and Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Programs for the U.S. Northern Command Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Response Enterprise," March 3, 2014
(e) Title 10, U.S.C.
(f) Department of Defense Directive 1404.10, "DoD Civilian Expeditionary Workforce," January 23, 2009
(g) Department of Defense Instruction 3020.41, "Operational Contract Support," December 20, 2011
(h) Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Priority 3 Anthrax Vaccinations," October 25, 2002 (Document is classified Secret) (hereby cancelled)
(i) Under Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Priority 3 Anthrax Vaccinations for Follow-on Forces," February 11, 2003 (hereby cancelled)
(j) Under Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Revision of Priority 3 Anthrax and Stage 2 Smallpox Vaccinations for Follow-on Forces," February 14, 2003 (hereby cancelled)
(k) Under Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Revision of DoD Policy for Smallpox Vaccinations," May 8, 2007 (Document is classified Secret) (hereby cancelled)
(l) Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Expansion of Force Health Protection Anthrax and Smallpox Immunization Programs for DoD Personnel," June 28, 2004 (hereby cancelled)
(m) Under Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Expansion of Force Health Protection Anthrax and Smallpox Immunization Programs for Emergency-Essential and Equivalent Department of Defense Civilian Employees," September 22, 2004 (hereby cancelled)
(n) Chapter I of Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations