

April 26, 2002

TO: ALL NDMS TEAM LEADERS
FROM: Director, Office of Emergency Preparedness
SUBJECT: NDMS IMMUNIZATION POLICY

Protection of all Office of Emergency Preparedness personnel is of primary importance, during both training events and operational deployments. Deployments to austere environments or in response to a disease outbreak have inherent risks that may require additional measures to protect team members.

Protective measures will include current immunizations, as set forth in this policy letter. Provisions will be made for all personnel to receive the mandatory periodic immunizations, as well as any required at the time of deployment, at OEP expense, except as noted for healthcare providers, in the city where the team is sponsored or at a location to be determined by OEP.

To be considered eligible for deployment, personnel must have immunizations identified in Table 1 current at the time of deployment or a record of recent titers that indicate the individual is protected from the disease:

Table 1. ALL Personnel

IPV
Chickenpox
MMR
Tetanus
Influenza
IPPD
Hepatitis A

Healthcare providers and others who may be in contact with patients or patient remains will have additional immunizations (Table 2). Healthcare providers engaged in the care of patients at their usual place of employment are expected to receive immunizations as a result of their employment and at no expense to OEP.

Table 2. Healthcare Providers

Hepatitis B

In addition to the immunizations listed in tables 1 and 2 veterinary team members will be required to have a current rabies vaccination (Table 3).

Table 3. Veterinary Teams

Rabies

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The International Medical and Surgical Team immunization policy was addressed in a previous policy letter dated January 31, 2002.

Any member not current in immunizations as specified above and not willing to receive any additional specifically recommended immunizations at the time of deployment will not be authorized to deploy. As this is a critical force protection issue, this requirement will not be waived. Immunizations will be initiated by December 31, 2002; those requiring a series of immunizations will be initiated prior to that date and completed according to the requisite schedule. It will be the responsibility of the respective team leader, or a responsible team member designated in writing prior to the issuance of the deployment alert, to assure that this requirement is met. The cost of the immunizations may be included as a team expense under the new financial arrangements being made with OEP

Questions concerning this matter should be directed to Dr. Robert M. Gum, DO the Chief Medical Officer in OEP at rgum@osophs.dhhs.gov.

Original Signed
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