

INFORMATION PAPER

DHA-IHB
30 August 2017

SUBJECT: Immunization Recommendations for Disaster Response Operations

1. Purpose. To provide immunization recommendations for Department of Defense (DoD) military personnel supporting disaster response.
2. Facts.
 - a. Routine Adult. Ensure personnel are current for ALL routine adult vaccinations based on age and health status. Do not delay deployment pending completion of immunization series.
<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6605e2.htm>
 - b. Hepatitis A. Review records for evidence of immunization. If needed, begin or complete the two-dose Hepatitis A vaccine series. This series may be completed using the monovalent or bivalent (combination) vaccine. Further guidance on completing the vaccinations series is available at <http://www.health.mil/hepA>.
 - c. Hepatitis B. Review records for evidence of immunization. If needed, begin or complete the three-dose Hepatitis B vaccine series. This series may be completed using the monovalent or bivalent (combination) vaccine. Further guidance on completing vaccination series is available at <http://www.health.mil/hepB>.
 - d. Influenza. Vaccinate personnel with the current seasonal influenza vaccine if available.
 - e. Tetanus. In accordance with the current Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) guidelines, responders should receive a tetanus booster if they have not been vaccinated for tetanus during the past 10 years. Td (tetanus/diphtheria) or Tdap (tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis) can be used; receiving one dose of Tdap for one tetanus booster during adulthood is recommended to maintain protection against pertussis. Consistent with CDC wound-management guidelines, anyone who develops a puncture wound or has a wound contaminated with dirt, feces, soil, or saliva needs a Td booster (or Tdap if applicable) if the most recent dose was more than 5 years earlier.
 - f. Rabies. Veterinarians and people involved in animal-control efforts should assess the localized risk of rabies exposure and consider their need for

pre-exposure prophylaxis. Persons who are exposed to potentially rabid animals should be evaluated and receive standard post-exposure prophylaxis, as clinically appropriate.

- g. Travel-Related Vaccines. When responding to a disaster outside of the United States, non-routine vaccines may be recommended based on the [CDC Health Information for International Travel](#) (commonly called the Yellow Book) or required by the Force Health Protection Guidance issued by the [Combatant Command](#) Surgeon's Office.

3. References.

- a. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC Health Information for International Travel 2018. New York: Oxford University Press; 2017.
- b. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule – United States, 2017. MMWR 2017; 66(5); 136-138.
- c. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Immunization Recommendations for Disaster Responders. <https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/disease/responderimmun.html>

IHB Policy and Program Management Office/877-438-8222
Approved: Chief, Immunization Healthcare Branch