



Health Department

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State Conducts Smallpox Vaccination of City of Milwaukee Health Department Staff

The State Division of Public Health (DPH) performed vaccination of a select group of public health and hospital workers today in Milwaukee including employees of the City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) as part of a federal and state initiative aimed at building local capacity in the event of a smallpox case or outbreak in the region.

The clinic held today at the Aurora Conference Center at 2920 W. Dakota is one of five clinics to be held in the southeast region of the state and one of 25 that will be conducted by DPH staff throughout Wisconsin during March. These clinics, referred to as "Phase I" in the overall smallpox vaccination strategy promulgated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are part of an overall federal plan to enhance preparedness and response to bioterrorism nationwide.

The purpose of the voluntary vaccination program is to ensure that frontline healthcare workers in a community, particularly those who are part of public health and hospital response teams have adequate protection to investigate and treat smallpox case(s) if they appear. This "pre-event" vaccination program also ensures a level of readiness and capacity at public health and hospital levels if called to respond to a smallpox case or outbreak within the larger community.

Fourteen volunteer employees of the MHD will be participating in the vaccination clinics. All of the volunteers were required to review safety materials and fact sheets that outline contraindications to the vaccine as well as types of adverse reactions that can occur among those vaccinated. Medical screening of volunteers along with signed consent prior to vaccination is also required prior to vaccination. Tracking of adverse reactions among MHD vaccinees along with evaluation of the vaccination site each day prior to the start of work shift will be conducted by a MHD physician over the next three to four weeks.

The MHD has established a hotline for public inquiries and questions on smallpox at 414-286-3616 Monday through Friday 8:00 – 4:00 p.m. and has information published on our web site at www.milwaukee.gov/health.

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