September 5, 2003

Dear SHCC (and EH&S) Employee;

The SHCC and EH&S have developed an emergency response plan for vaccinating the entire University of Florida student and employee population should a sentinel case of smallpox be identified. UFs plan is part of a broader county, state and nation-wide emergency response plan that will be activated only if public health officials notify the University that there is an eminent Smallpox threat.

The likelihood of this plan ever being activated is hopefully small. However we must be prepared and ready should the need arise. The purpose of this letter, therefore, is to inform and educate you about the plan and enlist your help in implementing it.

The actual plan calls for a rallying of sufficient numbers of trained staff to coordinate all the aspects of the vaccination program. Once the plan is activated, smallpox vaccinations will be administered to the 60,000 UF students and employees in just 6 days. Teams will work from two sites, the old Florida Gym (next door) and the South West Recreation Center, to support, educate, medically screen and administer Smallpox vaccinations to ~10,800 persons a day. Three major teams will function to support all aspects of this response plan: the Logistical Support Team, the Vaccination Team, and the Medical Support Team.

A brief overview of the plan has been developed for your review. Please take the next 3 – 4 minutes and go through the introductory slide presentation.

Upon completion of the presentation you will be asked to complete a contact information form which is necessary to assign you to one of the three important teams. Once you have completed this form, you will receive a team assignment and periodic updates by e-mail just to keep you connected and informed of the issues surrounding smallpox response.

Should you have additional questions, please feel free to call 392-1161 ext. 4220 or email smallpx@cns.ufl.edu. Information is also available on the internet at http://www.shcc.ufl.edu/er/smallpox.shtml.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this important public health program to ensure that the University of Florida community is protected!

Take care,

Phillip Barkley William Properzio