Smallpox Frequently Asked Questions
Revised: 10/15/03

1. Who in the community or at UF is responsible for declaring a smallpox event or emergency?

National, state and/or local public health officials will activate the Smallpox Emergency Response Plan and will notify the President of the University. In this community, Tom Belcuour is the Public Health authority that will activate the response plan in Alachua and surrounding counties. The President of the University or his designee will actually declare UF's plan activated should the need arise.

2. What persons/groups will be included in UF's vaccination plan specifically?

The plan focuses on the Gainesville university campus only. Employees and students in UF programs away from Gainesville will be vaccinated through their county's Smallpox Response Program. All UF employees and students with current UF ID numbers will be vaccinated on campus. Spouses who are also UF students or employees can be vaccinated together on campus at one of the two vaccination sites. However, spouses who are not UF related and all children of UF students or employees will be vaccinated through public health clinics offered in the Gainesville community and surrounding Alachua County.

3. How will UF students and employees be assigned to get their vaccination?

The last four digits of the student/employee's UF ID number will be used to randomly assign each person to a two-hour block of time for their vaccination.

Two vaccination sites on UF campus will be staffed and ready to vaccinate all 60,000+ students and staff in six days. There will be six two-hour time blocks per twelve-hour days at each of the two vaccination sites. With these vaccinations given over a six-day period, that means that ~10,800 persons will be vaccinated each day.

These times will be well publicized on UF's web site and in the local media to keep everyone well informed of the vaccination plan.

4. If I agree to participate in implementing this plan, how will I be trained to perform my assigned role?

All training will occur on line through the SHCC Smallpox Web site. Training will be specific to the role and duties assigned. Updates, new and review information will be sent out on a quarterly basis to keep staff informed and comfortable with the response plan.

This FAQ will be updated regularly to share pertinent questions and information with all Smallpox Response team members.

5. Which persons should not receive the smallpox vaccination during this non-urgent time?

Persons with the following should NOT receive a Smallpox vaccine:

- Eczema and atopic dermatitis
- Acute skin conditions that can lead to breaks in the skin (allergic rash, chickenpox, shingles, severe acne)
- A weakened immune system due to autoimmune disease, HIV/AIDS, cancers, cancer treatment, or medications such as steroids that result in a weakened immune response.
- Pregnant women
- Breast feeding mothers
- Persons with a moderate or severe illness should wait until they recover before receiving the vaccination.
- Persons living with an infant under one year of age.

6. What about persons with heart disease? Are they at increased risk for problems if they get the vaccine?

There is information to suggest that a smallpox vaccination may cause inflammation of the heart muscle and/or inflammation of the membrane that covers the heart. As a precautionary step, at this time, it is recommended that persons diagnosed as having a heart condition, with or without symptoms, NOT receive a smallpox vaccination during non-urgent times. So, if you have a history of, or any current problem with, any of the following medical problems, the vaccination is NOT advised at this time:

- Coronary Artery Disease
- Previous myocardial infarction (heart attack)
- Angina
- Congestive heart failure
- Cardiomyopathy
- Stroke or Transient Ischemic Attacks
- Chest pain and/ or shortness of breath
- Any other heart condition that is under the care of a doctor

7. If I don't get the smallpox vaccination now but want to wait until and if an "event" occurs, how and when will I be vaccinated?

You will be vaccinated on day 6 of UF's Smallpox Response plan. This will ensure that all persons who have agreed to help with the plan are healthy and available to maximally implement the plan.

This approach gives adequate time for individuals to be protected in the event of exposure to actual smallpox.

Submit any questions or concerns you may have via email, smallpx@cns.ufl.edu