Although smallpox was declared globally eradicated in 1980, there are concerns that smallpox virus may be used for bioterrorism. This possibility has prompted the updating of the response plan previously developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for responding to the potential importation of smallpox during the 1970’s. This updated “Interim Smallpox Response Plan and Guidelines” incorporates and extends many of the concepts and strategies that were successfully employed to control smallpox outbreaks and eradicate the disease. The Plan outlines the guidelines that CDC has provided to State and local health departments to assist them in developing smallpox outbreak response plans. CDC will continue to work with State and local health officials to improve public health preparedness for responding to all potential bioterrorism events. This document will be updated and redistributed as necessary.

A suspected case of smallpox should be immediately reported to State and local health officials.

Questions?

1) About your state’s response plan -
   Please call your local or state health department.

2) About smallpox –
   • CDC Bioterrorism and Response Program
   • CDC National Immunization Program
     http://www.cdc.gov/nip/diseases/smallpox
   • Write to: ncidbprpinguiry@cdc.gov

3) About smallpox vaccine -
   • The National Immunization Hotline
     (800) 232-2522  English
     (800) 232-0233  Spanish
   • NIP Public Inquiries
     Mailstop E-05
     1600 Clifton Rd., NE
     Atlanta, GA 30333
   • Write to: nipinfo@cdc.gov
   • CDC Drug Service
     http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/srp/drugservice/immuodrugs.htm#Vaccinia