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Conference

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Notes

Publ as

Threat of
Smallpox is one of our 10 concerns - there is reason for this.

- Through history - smallpox ^{has been} the most deadly and feared of the pestilential diseases - ^{plague or y.f.}
Caused by a virus - spreads person to person - 30% die - There is no treatment

- 1967 - global program ^{WHO} to eradicate the disease -
~~eradicated by 1977~~
last case Oct 26 1977

Declared eradicated 1980 - vaccination stopped - vaccine production facilities destroyed

- Early 90s, learned from Soviet defector that Soviet Union had been and was then engaged in a massive bio weapons program (larger than nuclear) and this included smallpox.

+ One industrial facility ~~capable of producing 20-100 tons per year~~
The site is still existent, ~~secret~~, secret.

Meanwhile - with economic + , ~~the help or use of Soviet scientists~~ have disappeared.

- Is it possible that smallpox is in the hands of Iraq, N. Korea, etc. ^{Do we know?} Yes. ^{Are they producing it?} ^{but then}
How might it be dispersed - a powder like anthrax - simple aerosol.

Conclusion: A risk that smallpox could be utilized - ~~probably~~ less likely than anthrax (procurement and production) but not 0

As of Sept 18 ²⁰⁰¹ - 1st assessment of situation -
15 x 10⁶ doses of smallpox ^{in stock} but only 90,000 doses ready immediately
No more than a about 100,000 needles for administration.
POTENTIAL CATASTROPHE - HIGHLY SENSITIVE POT.

Decision: Get ^{full} 15 x 10⁶ ready for use immediately if needed; Test it to confirm that it could be utilized
Get enough vaccine for entire country
Produce it in tissue cell culture. (not calves) + get this done in 15-18 months.
(Normally a 4-5 year process on a priority schedule).
KEEP FOR EMERGENCY

Outstanding team recruited - ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ -

By April - decided that by year end, ^{if the vaccine} we would have enough for emergency use -
^{new} vaccine would not be fully tested and licensed until early 2004 but ^{available in} emergency.

Could utilize the 15 x 10⁶ ~~for vaccination of select groups~~ for vaccination of select groups

Myths - CDC website -

to focus & teach

o Prevent disease & death
End of - to help.

o Ring can stain wall -

Emerging, should be in
change

~~Public Health Department~~

Public Health Department

o ? other agencies

o Ways to reduce type -
new way to prevent

o ? improved methods

Bipartisan Congressional Health Policy Conference

January 16-18, 2003

Turnberry Isle Resort Club • 19999 West Country Club Drive • Aventura, Florida

Based on 600 experience

- What should be our vaccination policy? ← Balance of risks - both uncertain.
- Vaccine is more reactogenic than any contemporary vaccine.
- Can anticipate 1-4 deaths per million persons vaccinated and 15-25 complications serious enough to warrant hospitalizations.
- Further concern
- Pop. today - different from 1960s - more persons with immune def. - AIDS, organ transplant, cancer, etc. ↑ severity
- Wide consultation with professional and civic group followed.
- Get country prepared to make vaccine available to entire country within 10 days. Not in process
 - Vaccinate medical and public health teams that would be responsible for ~~the vaccine~~ ^{investigating}, diagnosing, and treating patients - 500,000 persons (should be complete by next - late April)
 - Next: Vaccinate those who would be heightened risk by virtue of their jobs.
Police, fire, emergency rescue personnel - post-office personnel in early waves
~ 10×10^6 voluntary
- Why these groups? vaccine effective up to 4 days
- Experience from European importations. 50% hospital 25% household contacts
- Finally - do we make it available to all.
~~All but~~ ^{all but} unanimous view of those who know the issues best - NO
But, as the President announced, to make vaccine available to ~~the~~ ^{those} seeking it
but with the advice AT PRESENT - not to take it.
 - Priority research effort to determine whether a less reactogenic vaccine is possible.

Major problem now:

to rebuild our public infrastructure at

- + Assuring adequate funding for state + local ~~govts~~ - in President's requested budget for 03
- + Liability issues are covered under the Homeland Security bill

Major obstacle and concern now - compensation for needful care and for lost wages to those who may ~~lose~~ experience major expenses.

Some day - population - wide vaccination may be indicated - need for continuing assessment of risk and benefit