



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, DC

JAN 21 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

FROM: HQ USAF/SG
110 Luke Avenue, Room 400
Bolling AFB, DC 20332-7050

SUBJECT: Air Force Policy for the Use of Varicella (Chickenpox) Vaccine

The attached ASD(HA) memorandum delineates the policy for the use of varicella vaccine.

Previous experience at the AF Academy and the Navy's Great Lakes recruit center regarding varicella screening for cadets suggest the most cost-effective method in these settings is to screen all accessions serologically. Consequently, all Air Force recruits at Lackland AFB and cadets at the USAF Academy should have serologic screening for varicella. This screening may occur in conjunction with other planned blood drawing, but should occur early enough to allow for initial varicella immunization of susceptibles within the first two weeks of training. This is in keeping with the ASD(HA) policy on this subject.

Screening for other active duty susceptibles, especially high-risk individuals such as health care workers, non-pregnant women of child-bearing age, and men living in households with young children, shall occur at the Preventive Health Assessment or at the earliest clinical opportunity. Screening and immunization of these individuals should be as described in the ASD(HA) memo based on definite personal history of chickenpox, documentation of prior varicella immunization, or protective serology. The immunologic status of active duty members for varicella and the method of determination should be documented in the Military Immunization Tracking System (MITS) or any other AF-approved automated immunization tracking system which forwards information to DEERS. Screening and immunization of dependents or other eligible beneficiaries, as always, should follow the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP) guidelines.

If you have any further questions, my POCs are Col Dana Bradshaw and Maj Steve Niehoff, AFMOA/SGOP, 110 Luke Avenue, Room 405, Bolling AFB, DC 20332-7050, DSN 297-4286, or (202) 767-4286 e-mail dana.bradshaw@usafsg.bolling.af.mil, steve.niehoff@usafsg.af.mil.

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Attachment:
ASD (HA) Memorandum