What is smallpox vaccine?
Smallpox vaccine contains a weakened live virus called “vaccinia.” Vaccinia is a virus related to smallpox but does not cause the disease.

What is the smallpox vaccine?
Smallpox vaccine contains a weakened live virus called “vaccinia.”

What should not get smallpox vaccine?
Smallpox vaccine contains a weakened live virus called “vaccinia.”

Who should not get smallpox vaccine?
Who should not get smallpox vaccine?

Who is required to receive the vaccine?
Smallpox vaccination is mandatory for uniformed personnel deploying to the Korean Peninsula for 15 or more consecutive days.

Who should not get smallpox vaccine?
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What is smallpox?
Smallpox is contagious and infectious disease caused by the variola virus. Smallpox can be deadly, resulting in death for about 3 out of 10 unvaccinated individuals.

Why is the Department of Defense vaccinating personnel?
Due to vaccination of the masses, smallpox was declared eradicated in 1980, and routine smallpox vaccination stopped. Although no cases of smallpox have been reported since the eradication, the potential exists for the virus to be used as a biological weapon by enemies of the U.S.

Who is required to receive the vaccine?
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Who is required to receive the vaccine?
Who is required to receive the vaccine?
Who should not get smallpox vaccine? (continued from previous page)

- Using eye drops or ointment after vaccination and until the site is healed.

- Smallpox virus is present on the skin at the vaccination site for 30 days and a scab forms. The scab falls off after 2 to 4 weeks, leaving a scar. The vaccination site does NOT look similar to one of the pictures above, on previous page.

- If vaccination is successful, after 2 to 4 days a red and itchy bump will form at the vaccination site. Over the next few days, the bump becomes a blister and fills with pus. During this time, the blister dries up and a scab forms. The scab falls off after 2 to 4 weeks, leaving a scar. The vaccination site does NOT look similar to one of the pictures above.

- Normal bathing can continue, but don't touch or scrub the vaccination site. Be careful when toweling off as to not to spread the virus to other parts of your body. Dry the site last by blotting with tissue, toilet paper, or paper towel. Discard used bandage and tissue paper in sealed or double plastic bags. You must wash your hands with soap and water after handling these items by others, vaccine recipients should wash their hands with soap and water after handling these items by others, vaccine recipients should wash their hands with soap and water. How should I care for the vaccination site?

- Keep the vaccination site covered with a dry non-stick bandage (i.e., Band-Aid®, Telfa™ pad); DO NOT use gauze or cloth bandages. To reduce complications and spreading of the disease elsewhere on your body or to someone else:

- Keep site completely covered with a dry non-stick bandage (i.e., Band-Aid®, Telfa™ pad); DO NOT use gauze or cloth bandages. To reduce complications and spreading of the disease elsewhere on your body or to someone else:

- Avoid directly touching the vaccination site

- Disposable gloves do not take the place of rigorous handwashing. However, at the vaccination site during dressing changes for added protection

- Do NOT let others touch your vaccination site or materials that may have touched your blister, like clothing and bandages

- Keep site dry as possible and when showering keep site covered

- Avoid swimming, wrestling, or other contact sports until site is healed

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer

- Smallpox Vaccination Site

- To verify proper vaccination, it is important for a healthcare provider to evaluate your vaccination site 6 to 8 days after receiving the vaccine. People vaccinated for the first time may have a larger reaction than those being re-vaccinated. Your site may not look exactly like the picture, because everyone responds differently to the vaccine. However, if your vaccination site does NOT look similar to one of the pictures above, on previous page or between days 6 to 8 after vaccination, see your healthcare provider; you may need to be re-vaccinated. If you have any questions or concerns about the smallpox vaccination site, contact your healthcare provider.

- How to feel after vaccination?

- Most individuals experience mild reactions that usually peak 3 to 12 days after vaccinations and rarely last more than 30 days. The most common reactions include:

- Itching at and around the vaccination site

- Swollen and/or tender lymph nodes in the armpit and neck

- Arm may become sore and red around vaccination site

- Headache, and body ache

- Fatigue

- On rare occasions individuals may experience more serious side effects that require hospital medical attention. If you experience any of the below symptoms it is important that you seek immediate medical care at the nearest medical facility:

- Rash or sores elsewhere on the body days to several weeks after vaccination

- Allergic reaction (hives, wheezing, or light headed) after vaccination

- A serious skin rash in people with eczema or atopic dermatitis

- Ongoing infection of skin with tissue destruction or site is unable to heal

- Fever, headache, and body ache

- Swollen and/or sore lymph nodes in the armpit and neck

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