SUBJECT: Immunization Recommendations for Disaster Response Operations

1. Purpose. To provide immunization recommendations for Department of Defense (DoD) military personnel supporting disaster response.

2. Facts.

   a. Routine Adult. Ensure personnel are current for ALL routine adult vaccinations based on age and health status. Do not delay deployment pending completion of immunization series. 
      https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6605e2.htm

   b. Hepatitis A. Review records for evidence of immunization. If needed, begin or complete the two-dose Hepatitis A vaccine series. This series may be completed using the monovalent or bivalent (combination) vaccine. Further guidance on completing the vaccinations series is available at http://www.health.mil/hepA.

   c. Hepatitis B. Review records for evidence of immunization. If needed, begin or complete the three-dose Hepatitis B vaccine series. This series may be completed using the monovalent or bivalent (combination) vaccine. Further guidance on completing vaccination series is available at http://www.health.mil/hepB.

   d. Influenza. Vaccinate personnel with the current seasonal influenza vaccine if available.

   e. Tetanus. In accordance with the current Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) guidelines, responders should receive a tetanus booster if they have not been vaccinated for tetanus during the past 10 years. Td (tetanus/diphtheria) or Tdap (tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis) can be used; receiving one dose of Tdap for one tetanus booster during adulthood is recommended to maintain protection against pertussis. Consistent with CDC wound-management guidelines, anyone who develops a puncture wound or has a wound contaminated with dirt, feces, soil, or saliva needs a Td booster (or Tdap if applicable) if the most recent dose was more than 5 years earlier.

   f. Rabies. Veterinarians and people involved in animal-control efforts should assess the localized risk of rabies exposure and consider their need for
pre-exposure prophylaxis. Persons who are exposed to potentially rabid animals should be evaluated and receive standard post-exposure prophylaxis, as clinically appropriate.

g. Travel-Related Vaccines. When responding to a disaster outside of the United States, non-routine vaccines may be recommended based on the CDC Health Information for International Travel (commonly called the Yellow Book) or required by the Force Health Protection Guidance issued by the Combatant Command Surgeon’s Office.

3. References.

