

## INFORMATION PAPER

DHA-IHB  
11 September 2017

SUBJECT: Yellow Fever Vaccine Shortage

1. Purpose. To describe the yellow fever vaccine shortage and promulgate revised vaccination and ordering procedures.
2. Facts.
  - a. Background. Recent manufacturing problems resulted in a shortage of the only U.S.-licensed yellow fever vaccine. The current YF-VAX® supply depletion began in November 2015. The manufacturer, Sanofi Pasteur, was moving production of the vaccine to a newer facility set to open in 2018, but a manufacturing complication resulted in the loss of a large number of doses. In spring 2016, Sanofi Pasteur notified Department of Defense (DoD) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) of a probable complete depletion of YF-VAX® later in the year. Sanofi Pasteur succeeded in producing additional doses of YF-VAX® in late 2016. Due to continued DoD operational requirements for yellow fever vaccine, the DoD instituted controls to ensure strict adherence to vaccination recommendations and controlled vaccine ordering process to maintain adequate supply to meet operational requirements. Similar to the CDC, the DoD developed a contingency plan that includes the use of an alternative yellow fever vaccine manufactured by Sanofi Pasteur France, with safety and efficacy comparable to the U.S.-licensed vaccine under an expanded access investigational new drug (eIND) protocol; the DoD is not exercising this contingency plan at this time. With control measures in place, the DoD currently has sufficient YF-VAX® supply to meet requirements until production resumes.
  - b. Impact. Proof of yellow fever immunization is a requirement for entry into most countries within the AFRICOM AOR in addition to, endemic zones located within the SOUTHCOM AOR. See the list of country requirements at [http://www.who.int/ith/ITH\\_country\\_list.pdf](http://www.who.int/ith/ITH_country_list.pdf).
  - c. Quantity. All activities are encouraged to manage their supply of YF-VAX® judiciously. All stock should be rotated and expiration dates should be monitored closely. Strict storage and handling measures should be in place to prevent a potential temperature compromise of the vaccine.
  - d. Immunization. YF-VAX® vaccination should be limited to Service Members and beneficiaries who are within 30 days of traveling to an area

where yellow fever vaccine is required or recommended. All accession sites should stop routine yellow fever vaccination of recruits until full production is resumed. All routine 10-year booster vaccination should be postponed unless directed by CCMD requirements until full production is resumed. When using the 5-dose vial presentation, activities should ensure five people are ready to receive the vaccination at one time as the vaccine must be used within 60 minutes of reconstitution.

- e. Ordering. Sanofi Pasteur has both the 5-dose vial and the single dose presentation of YF-VAX® available for procurement on a restricted basis, with only one presentation available for procurement at a given time. Activities should maximize the use of on-hand stocks of vaccine to support valid requirements before submitting an YF-VAX® order authorization request to their Service POC. Service POCs will assess the activities YF-VAX® requirements and communicate all requests to Sanofi Pasteur customer service. Once YF-VAX requisition authorization is approved by Sanofi Pasteur Customer Service, the Service POC will contact the activity and advise of the authorization to place the order. When the YF-VAX® requisition authorization has been received from the Service POC, an order will be placed for the authorized vaccine quantity through DMLSS or TEWLS to the PPV-G as a drop shipment order. Specific ordering instructions can be found in MMQC-16-1186. For non-DoD beneficiaries traveling to an endemic area, yellow fever vaccine is available only at designated vaccination centers, which can be found at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellow-fever-vaccination-clinics/search>.
- f. Additional preventive measures. Avoid mosquito bites.
  1. Use insect repellent when outdoors.
  2. Wear long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors. Mosquitoes may bite through thin clothing; applying repellent to will provide extra protection. Mosquito repellents containing permethrin are not approved for application directly to skin.
  3. Take extra care to use repellent and protective clothing during daytime as well as during the evening and early morning. The peak biting times for many mosquito species is dusk to dawn; however one of the mosquitoes that transmits yellow fever virus, *Aedes aegypti*, feeds during the daytime. Staying in accommodations with screened or air-conditioned rooms, particularly during peak biting times, will also reduce risk of mosquito bites

### 3. References.

- a. MMQC-16-1186. Yellow Fever Vaccine Limited Supply and Ordering Restrictions and Guidance (YF-VAX) / Sanofi Pasteur

[http://www.usamma.army.mil/assets/apps/nala\\_qaweb/message.cfm?MSG=MMQC-16-1186](http://www.usamma.army.mil/assets/apps/nala_qaweb/message.cfm?MSG=MMQC-16-1186)

- b. FDA, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, Regulated Products: Current Shortages.  
<https://www.fda.gov/biologicsbloodvaccines/safetyavailability/shortages/ucm351921.htm>
- c. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Yellow Book, Infectious Diseases Related to Travel: Yellow Fever.  
<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2016/infectious-diseases-related-to-travel/yellow-fever>

Fort Bragg Regional Vaccine Safety Hub/877-438-8222  
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