Public Health Subcommittee
Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) Booster Immunization Practices
February 10, 2020
Overview

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Membership

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On November 7, 2019, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs directed the Defense Health Board ("the Board") to provide recommendations to the Department of Defense (DoD) on the optimal way to minimize the risk of mumps in our armed forces and maintain medical readiness.
In 2010, the Board reviewed this topic for the Navy and did not recommend a universal third MMR immunization strategy:

- Current practices should be continued.
- Selective immunization for those with:
  - < 2 documented MMR vaccines, or
  - Low titers of measles or rubella neutralizing antibodies
- Consider universal MMR vaccination if the risk of mumps outbreaks increase.
In 2019, there were at least 2 major incidences of mumps across the Services:

**USS Fort McHenry**
- 28 cases of illness out of 703 crew members
- Quarantined at sea for about 4 months

**173rd Airborne Division of the Army**
- 10 cases of illness, 1 confirmed case of mumps
- Ring vaccination of about 200 Soldiers
• Determine if universal administration of MMR vaccine at accessions and a booster vaccine for current service members is warranted based on recent events. Specifically:

  • Review scientific literature and epidemiologic trends to quantify current and future risk to medical readiness from mumps outbreaks

  • Determine if current immunization policy is sufficient to mitigate potential risk and, if not, recommend best practices to mitigate that risk.

  • Provide any additional recommendations to inform policy, such as impact to budgetary and logistical requirements
Summary of Activities to Date

• A “kick off” preparatory meeting with the Public Health Subcommittee is scheduled for February 25-26, 2020

• DHB staff have conducted 5 informational teleconferences with subject matter experts, epidemiologists, preventive medicine/public health responders, and policy makers on the MMR vaccine
## Areas of Interest

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<td>Science of mumps vaccine</td>
<td>• Waning immunity&lt;br&gt;• Challenges of serological testing</td>
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<td>Epidemiological burden of mumps</td>
<td>• U.S. and global surveillance&lt;br&gt;• Surveillance within the Military</td>
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<td>Current recommendations</td>
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<td>DHA Immunization Policies</td>
<td>• Current DHA policies and practice&lt;br&gt;• Challenges of immunization practice</td>
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Way Ahead

• Report expected to be briefed and deliberated at the next Board meeting in May 2020
Questions ?