

Media Advisory
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Pool Feed Available for Smallpox Vaccination

Tallahassee—The first Florida civilian in 30 years was vaccinated today for smallpox. Pool video footage of the vaccination of Dr. Bill Tynan, deputy state epidemiologist and coordinator for Stage 1 of Operation Vaccinate Florida, is available for media throughout the state. Additionally, the Associated Press (AP) in Tallahassee also covered the vaccination, along with a photographer.

To obtain the video footage, please contact Capitol News Service at 850-224-5546.
To obtain the AP story, please call 850-224-1211.

Today's vaccination marked the start of Stage 1 of *Operation Vaccinate Florida*, whereby smallpox vaccinations will be provided to smallpox response teams throughout the state. The first step will be to create vaccination teams drawn principally from Florida Department of Health (DOH) public health staff. This will be the focus of the first two weeks of *Operation Vaccinate Florida*. Once these DOH vaccination teams have been established, they will vaccinate larger groups over the remainder of Stage 1. These groups are drawn from hospitals throughout the state. Hospitals that participate will therefore be prepared in the event of an outbreak. This first stage of smallpox vaccinations is expected to last approximately 30 to 60 days.

Vaccination is done with a live virus called "vaccinia" and is widely effective in giving immunity against smallpox. Vaccinia is not smallpox itself and there is no risk of reintroducing smallpox this way. There are, however, risks associated with vaccination, affecting approximately 50 people of every million vaccinated. To mitigate risks, a number of measures are in place, including a detailed screening of vaccination candidates.

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