

Pandemic Flu

MCM carefully monitors any incidences of emerging novel influenza strains that may arise worldwide, and stands ready to ensure the best available and proper countermeasures are in place to protect the nation's Armed Forces at home and abroad before a pandemic occurs, as well as respond effectively within a whole of government approach should a pandemic occur.

Seasonal Flu

MCM annually reviews DoD's seasonal influenza vaccination policy and makes recommendations for updates or modifications, so that the latest, safest and most effective available vaccines are administered to DoD personnel and beneficiaries to ensure a safe, healthy and fit force. MCM coordinates with the military Services, Joint Staff, and the Defense Logistics Agency-Troop Support on all aspects of the annual Seasonal Influenza Program.

Infectious Diseases

MCM assumes a proactive, preventive approach to protect Service members and their families who may be stationed or deployed in areas at elevated risk to both naturally occurring and manufactured emerging infectious diseases. MCM develops clinical use guidelines for vaccines, diagnostics and antiviral policies that protect department-wide military and civilian personnel and beneficiaries preserve U.S. combat capabilities and readiness, and U.S. government-wide efforts to save lives, reduce human suffering and slow the spread of infection. This includes managing and updating vaccine use policies to counter infectious disease threats such as smallpox and anthrax, and ensuring the safest and most effective preventive measures are in place to address adenovirus-associated illness and unique regional illnesses such as malaria, Japanese Encephalitis and leishmaniasis. MCM interacts with DoD's Chemical and Biological Defense Program, assisting in the development of medical countermeasure requirements, acquisition processes and new product evaluations, as well as in determining appropriate stockpiling to ensure that safe, effective medicines are in place and available when needed.

About DoD Pandemic Influenza/Infectious Diseases Watchboard

As a key component of DoD's Pandemic Influenza Mitigation efforts, the Medical Countermeasures (MCM) Directorate within FHP&R develops clinical guidelines for vaccines, diagnostics and antiviral policies that ultimately serve to protect department-wide military and civilian personnel and beneficiaries living abroad or at home.

In an influenza pandemic, the DoD's mission is to preserve U.S. combat capabilities and readiness, and support U.S. government efforts to save lives, reduce human suffering and slow the spread of infection.

MCM additionally coordinates with the military Services, Joint Staff, and the Defense Logistics Agency-Troop Support on all aspects of DoD's annual Seasonal Influenza Program, including public affairs and health provider messaging for any seasonal flu issues that may arise.

The MCM Directorate further takes a proactive and collaborative preventive medicine approach with military and civilian public health partners to protect Service members and their families who may be stationed or deployed in areas at elevated risk to emerging infectious disease agents. MCM develops vaccine use policies to counter infectious diseases including smallpox, anthrax and adenovirus, and ensures the latest, safest and most effective preventive measures are in place to address unique region-specific and common tropical illnesses such as malaria, Japanese Encephalitis and leishmaniasis.