

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT DISEASE INVESTIGATION STEPS

| NC REPORTABLE DISEASE/CONDITION | NC DISEASE CODE | INFECTIOUS AGENT (S) |
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| SMALLPOX | 69 | <i>Variola major/minor</i> |
| PREPARING FOR INVESTIGATION | | |
| KNOW THE DISEASE/CONDITION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read about Smallpox in the CD Manual. • See the case definition for Smallpox in the CD Manual. • Study APHA <i>Control of Communicable Diseases Manual</i>, 19th ed., pp 560 - 563. • See Smallpox Response Plan and Guidelines (Version 3.0): www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/response-plan/. • Print and review reporting forms: <i>Part 1: Confidential Disease Report (DHHS 2124)</i> <i>Part 2: Smallpox (DHHS/EPI #69)</i> | |
| BIOTERRORISM POTENTIAL CATEGORY A | <p>There has not been a naturally occurring smallpox case since 1977. Any case should be considered bioterrorism or due to clandestine laboratory exposure until proven otherwise, notify local law enforcement immediately and then state public health officials.</p> | |
| CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION | | |
| COLLECT CLINICAL INFORMATION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform health director and CD Branch (919) 733-3419 before proceeding with any smallpox investigation. Consider having a state medical epidemiologist contact the health care provider. • Obtain medical record (admission note, progress note, biopsy report(s), other lab report(s), and discharge summary). • Obtain digital image(s) of skin lesion(s) to share with medical epidemiologist. • Look for evidence in the medical record that supports clinical findings described in the case definition. | |
| REVIEW LABORATORY INFORMATION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review laboratory report(s) specific to this disease. • Evaluate laboratory results to determine if requirements of the case definition are satisfied. • Contact healthcare provider if further testing of the patient is indicated. | |
| APPLY THE CASE DEFINITION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the case definition to determine if the clinical and laboratory findings meet the case definition criteria. | |

| IMPLEMENTING CONTROL MEASURES | |
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| ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY SOURCE OF EXPOSURE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review clinical records for potential source(s) of exposure. If source of exposure is not evident in clinical information, interview patient to obtain additional information, this should be done in conjunction with law enforcement investigations. |
| IMPLEMENT CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DISEASE AND ADDITIONAL EXPOSURES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider vaccination of laboratorians or others potentially exposed. Work with local health director to implement the CDC Smallpox Response Plan contained at: www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/response-plan Use the CDC website www.bt.cdc.gov to teach at risk people about the disease. Consider risk communication messages to public and health professionals to prevent further exposures. |
| REPORTING INVESTIGATION | |
| REPORT TO NC COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BRANCH (CD) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enter Part 1 and Part 2 Communicable Disease Reports into NC EDSS as a new event, or update the existing event if already entered. Assign event to State Disease Registrar when case investigation complete. Do an "Event_Print" in NC EDSS after assigning to the state. Keep for one year along with any additional notes. Maintain as a surveillance file, not a medical record. |
| CASE FINDING | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During course of the investigation, determine if other potentially exposed individuals and evaluate the need for quarantine. With the local health director, order symptomatic individuals to appropriate facilities for isolation and treatment. |
| SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS | |
| STATE LABORATORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH (SLPH) TESTING | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform SLPH of testing requirements by calling the BT Duty pager at (919) 310-4243 or cell phone at (919) 807-8600. |
| PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE (PHPR) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform local Preparedness Coordinator. Call the PHPR 24/7 pager (877)-236-7477. The local health director should consider activation of emergency response plans to make resources available for isolation, quarantine, mass vaccination and other possibly required actions. |
| PERSONAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Droplet precautions to include respiratory protection and gowns/gloves should be utilized when in contact with cases of potentially exposed individuals. Consider vaccination of healthcare and law enforcement who will be involved in investigation and treatment efforts. |

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| RISK COMMUNICATION | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any case of this disease will be high profile with intense media interest.• Pre-existing crisis communication plans should be enacted.• Any case will need NC HAN alerts, EPI-X reports, MD alerts, and press releases.• NC DHHS Public Information Office (919) 733-9190 is available to assist local health departments as needed. |
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