

**SMALLPOX FACT SHEET**

## **People Who Should NOT Get the Smallpox Vaccine (Unless they are Exposed to the Smallpox Virus)**

Some people are at greater risk for serious side effects from the smallpox vaccine. **Individuals who have any of the following conditions, or live with someone who does**, should **NOT** get the smallpox vaccine **unless they have been exposed to the smallpox virus**.

- Eczema or atopic dermatitis. (This is true even if the condition is not currently active, mild or experienced as a child.)
- Skin conditions such as burns, chickenpox, shingles, impetigo, herpes, severe acne, or psoriasis. (People with any of these conditions should not get the vaccine until they have completely healed.)
- Weakened immune system. (Cancer treatment, an organ transplant, HIV, or medications to treat autoimmune disorders and other illnesses can weaken the immune system.)
- Pregnancy or plans to become pregnant within one month of vaccination.

In addition, individuals should not get the smallpox vaccine if they:

- Are allergic to the vaccine or any of its ingredients.
- Are younger than 12 months of age. However, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) advises against non-emergency use of smallpox vaccine in children younger than 18 years of age.
- Have a moderate or severe short-term illness. (These people should wait until they are completely recovered to get the vaccine.)
- Are currently breastfeeding.

**Again, people who have been directly exposed to the smallpox virus should get the vaccine, regardless of their health status.**

### **Dont Hesitate!**

If offered the smallpox vaccine, individuals should tell their immunization provider if they have any of the above conditions, or even if they suspect they might.

at (888) 246- [www.cdc.gov/smallpox](http://www.cdc.gov/smallpox), or call the CDC public response hotline  
-2857 (Español), or (866) 874 2646 (TTY)