

Anthrax Vaccination Program Paused

***Special release from the U.S. Department of Defense*

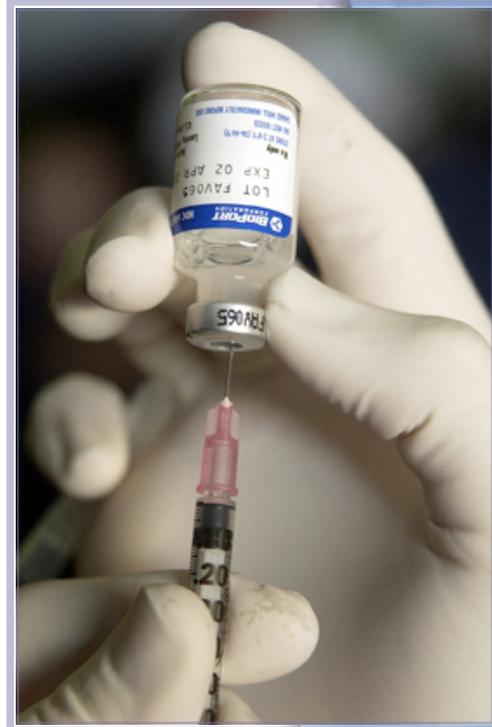
The Department of Defense (DoD) is reviewing a preliminary injunction issued Oct. 28 by U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia regarding the Anthrax vaccination program.

Similar to a December 2003 injunction which paused the DoD vaccination program until legal issues were clarified, this latest injunction is centered on FDA procedural issues and not the safety or effectiveness of the Anthrax vaccine.

Research conducted by prominent medical experts as well as a report by the National Academy of Sciences has determined that the Anthrax vaccine is safe and effective for all forms of Anthrax exposure.

As a result of the injunction, DoD will pause Anthrax vaccinations until legal situations are clarified.

The Defense Department's anthrax vaccination program is an important force protection measure, and the DoD remains convinced that the Anthrax vaccine is safe, effective and that immunizations comply with all legal requirements.



Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld's memorandum concerning the action is at www.defenselink.mil/news/Oct2004/d20041027anthrax.pdf.

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