There have been several cases of laboratory-acquired infection with vaccinia virus in United States laboratories. As a result the Centers for Disease Control recommends vaccination for all laboratory workers who directly handle vaccinia virus. Each worker must be provided with access to the vaccine. Each worker must also be provided with information about the pathogen and the vaccine, and advised of the possibility of vaccine failure or vaccine-related disease. Individuals who decline vaccination must provide their reason(s) on a signed form of declination. Until the individual has been immunized, or has signed a form declining immunization, he/she must not handle the virus. Contact University Health Services Occupational Health Services for vaccine consultation and administration.

Note -- The June 22, 2001 MMWR has a very helpful discussion on use of vaccinia vaccine among laboratory and health-care workers occupationally exposed to vaccinia virus, recombinant vaccinia viruses, and other Orthopoxviruses that can infect humans. See: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5010a1.htm.

• Smallpox (vaccinia) vaccine: consent/decline form
• Information regarding new Smallpox (Vaccinia) Live Vaccine (ACAM 2000)
• Comparison of ACAM2000 and DRYVAX
• Vaccine Overview
• Vaccinia (Smallpox) Vaccine Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), 2001
• Recommendations for Using Smallpox Vaccine in a Pre-Event Vaccination Program
• Laboratory-Acquired Vaccinia Virus Infection