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POLIO VACCINE BOOSTER NOW RECOMMENDED FOR ADULT TRAVELERS TO CHINA

During July 2011, wild-type polio cases began appearing in western China, in the relatively isolated area of Hotan Prefecture, Xinjian Uygur Autonomous Region. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports 18 confirmed cases of wild-type polio in western China, as of 19 October 2011. Previously, polio had not been reported in China since 1994. In response, Chinese authorities have responded with a mass vaccination campaign targeting over 4 million children aged under 15 years in the key affected outbreak area, and children aged under 5 years in other areas of Xinjiang.

As a result of this outbreak, the US Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) has recommended that US travelers to all parts of China should be up-to-date with polio vaccination. (http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices.htm Oct 4, 2011)

Polio is spread through fecal-oral transmission, typically through contaminated oral secretions and through fecal contamination of water and uncooked food. The disease mainly affects children under age 5 years, but unvaccinated persons of any age are at risk.

Recommendations:

For all those planning travel to any part of China, ensure polio vaccination is up-to-date:

- Adults who completed a polio vaccine series in childhood but never had an adult booster, should receive 1 booster dose of inactivated polio vaccine (IPV).
- Infants and children should receive 4 doses of IPV at ages 2, 4, and 6-18 mos. and 4-6 yrs.
- Recommendations for persons who are incompletely vaccinated or who require accelerated dosing can be found at: <u>www.cdc.gov/travel</u> (see Yellow Book 2012, Chapter 3: Poliomyelitis)

Reminder: Shingles Vaccine (Zostavax) Approved for Adults age 50+

Those seeking pre-travel vaccination and/or shingles vaccination may contact: AITC Immunization & Travel Clinic at (415) 554-2625 or www.sfdph.org/aitc

