

Introduction to the Anthrax Vaccine Work Group

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Public Health Problem

- *Bacillus anthracis*, the causative agent of anthrax, is an endospore-forming bacterium found naturally in soil around the world
- Humans are most often infected by exposure to infected animals or animal by-products via cutaneous, gastrointestinal, or inhalational routes
- *Bacillus anthracis* is a Tier 1 select agent
 - Potential for use as a bioweapon
 - High case fatality rate
 - Ability to cause great harm to public health and safety, particularly when aerosolized

Anthrax Vaccine Work Group

- **Vaccine:** Anthrax vaccine adsorbed, adjuvanted (AVA,A) (Cyfendus)
 - Second-generation anthrax vaccine
 - Licensed in July of 2023 for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) following exposure to *Bacillus anthracis* in adults aged 18 to 65
- **Work Group Objective:** Review existing safety and immunogenicity data to develop recommendations for ACIP to consider for domestic use of AVA,A for anthrax PEP

Thank you.

For more information, contact CDC
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