

Workers' Compensation Benefits for the smallpox vaccine

Smallpox vaccine coverage

Ohio's workers' compensation system will provide coverage to smallpox health-care response team volunteers in the event they develop a serious or life-threatening reaction from the smallpox vaccine.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), most people receiving the vaccine will experience localized swelling, redness, fever, muscle pain and swollen lymph nodes. These symptoms are self-limiting and your employer will provide health-care professionals on the site care team to manage these reactions.

However, if you experience unexpected serious or life-threatening side effects to the vaccine, BWC is committed to ensuring you receive the medical care and benefits you need.

When should you file a claim?

Site care teams will monitor your reaction to the smallpox vaccine. If you begin to show signs of a serious or life-threatening reaction, we will take immediate steps to treat the condition. File a claim:

- When side effects from the smallpox vaccine result in medical disease conditions beyond expected side effects;
- When site care teams monitoring the vaccine side effects advise you to seek additional medical care;

What does workers' compensation cover?

If you develop one of the medical conditions described in the chart to the right due to the smallpox vaccine, BWC will review your medical and wage benefit needs.

- Once a claim is, workers' compensation covers the cost of medical services provided to treat the allowed illness or injury.
- We may pay benefits for lost wages may be paid if an employee misses more than seven work days. If 14 consecutive work days are missed, we pay wage benefits include the first seven days. Benefits are about two-thirds of your wages, tax free.

How do you file a claim?

It's easy to file a claim.

- First, contact your human resources or employee benefits department. If your employer is self-insured, the employer is responsible for handling all workers' compensation claims, including payment of medical services and wage loss benefits.
- If your employer is not self-insured, you or your employer should file the claim online at BWC's Web site, ohiobwc.com, using the *First Report of an Injury, Occupational Disease or Death* (FROI).

To be considered for workers' compensation, you must show proof of participation in a hospital's smallpox health-care response team.

If you have questions about filing a claim or about workers' compensation benefits, log on to ohiobwc.com, or call BWC's toll-free telephone number **1-800-OHIOBWC**.

Adverse effects of the smallpox vaccine

According to the CDC, the following is a list of some of the adverse medical conditions that may occur as a result of receiving the smallpox vaccine. BWC recognizes these conditions as compensable.

- **Eczema vaccinatum** – These skin rashes are caused by widespread infection of the skin in people with skin conditions such as eczema or atopic dermatitis.
- **Erythema multiforme** – This toxic or allergic rash occurs in response to the vaccine and can take various forms.
- **Generalized vaccinia** – The virus spreads from the vaccination site through the blood. Sores break out on parts of the body away from the vaccination site.
- **Post-vaccinial encephalitis or meningoencephalitis** – This condition is an inflammation of the brain and/or spinal cord.
- **Progressive vaccinia or Vaccinia necrosum** – This is the ongoing infection of the skin with tissue destruction frequently leading to death.
- **Vaccinia keratitis/Ocular-vaccinia** – This condition is the accidental self-inoculation of the membranes of the eye, which causes redness, tearing, light sensitivity and pain. It could cause corneal scarring, if not treated.