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Subject: Important Update: IXCHIQ Vaccine Safety & Chikungunya Prevention



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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has received five reports in the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) of hospitalizations due to cardiac (e.g., atrial flutter) and neurologic (e.g., meningitis) events following vaccination with IXCHIQ (live attenuated chikungunya vaccine) in individuals aged 65 and older. Many of these patients had significant underlying medical conditions.

Guidance for Healthcare Providers:

- Discuss the [risks and benefits](#) of IXCHIQ with your patients based on each traveler's age, destination, trip duration, and planned activities.
- Review the latest [CDC Travel Health Notices](#) and be aware of [countries and territories](#) with outbreaks or evidence of chikungunya virus transmission among people within the last 5 years.
- Refer to the information in the Adverse Reactions section of the IXCHIQ [package insert](#) for additional safety information, including potential chikungunya-like adverse reactions.
- Report any adverse event following IXCHIQ vaccination to [VAERS](#).

VAERS serves as an early warning system for potential vaccine safety concerns, and the CDC is actively reviewing these cases. While VAERS is an important tool for detecting rare or emerging vaccine safety concerns, it has limitations and cannot determine causation.

Increased reporting of adverse events is common when a new vaccine is introduced. For more information, visit: [About VAERS | CDC](#).

About Chikungunya:

[Chikungunya virus](#) infection can cause significant illness, including fever and severe, disabling joint pain. The virus is transmitted through mosquito bites and is not endemic to the continental United States, though outbreaks have occurred in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and various islands in the Indian and Pacific Oceans. There is a risk of virus introduction to new areas through infected travelers.

Travelers can take steps to protect themselves from chikungunya by [preventing mosquito bites](#).

ACIP currently **recommends the IXCHIQ** for certain adults aged 18 and older, particularly:

- Travelers to areas experiencing a chikungunya outbreak
- Laboratory workers at risk of occupational exposure

Vaccination may also be considered for other travelers based on individual risk factors.

Please send this to your respective partners and through your communication channels.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

For the CT DPH Immunization Program, visit: [Contact Us](#)

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