

<p>(WT 1) ISRAEL VACCINATION PIX</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>Smallpox vaccines for civilians Close proximity to Iraq means ISRAEL is preparing not only for conventional attack - but BIOLOGICAL warfare. This is the first country in the world to vaccinate civilians since the disease was declared eradicated 20 years ago .. 15,000 emergency workers are first - those who will have to deal with the victims ... people infected with smallpox as a weapon</p>
<p>SYNCH health ministry</p>	<p>we feel under threat -</p>
<p>PTC 1 (Washington )</p>	<p>Newsnight understands that any day now authorities here in AMERICA will offer hundreds of thousands of healthcare workers the smallpox vaccine. With the threat of war ahead, the American people may feel they have good reason to fear bio-terrorism - indeed this time last year, America's worst bio-terrorist incident - the anthrax attack - struck at the heart of Government. It closed the buildings behind me and 5 people lost their lives. But just how REAL is the threat of a smallpox attack?</p>
<p>WHERE IS THE EVIDENCE?</p>	
<p>(WT 2 - through gfx device)</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>Much of the speculation about smallpox is just that - little more than rumour. Some Iraqi soldiers captured during the Gulf war had been vaccinated against smallpox, although the US was vaccinating ITS soldiers at the same time. Then there was the mysterious vial turned up by UN inspectors and labelled "smallpox" - but which turned out to contain vaccine ..</p>
<p>(WT 3 UNSCOM PIX)</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>Richard Spertzel ran UNSCOMs biological weapons team for four years, and is a key advisor to the Bush administration. Two years ago he didn't discuss the threat from smallpox. In recent months, and entirely independently of Government, he says, he is more forthcoming. For him there's no ONE piece of evidence that makes the case that Iraq has smallpox, but pieces of a puzzle that</p>

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	form a convincing picture...
SYNCH RICHARD SPERTZEL former head UNSCOM Biology	about the time they signed the Biological Weapons Convention and, coincidentally, about the same time, there was a smallpox outbreak that went from Iran through Northern Iraq into Syria and, as most countries would, Iraq would send isolates from such an outbreak to some of their central holding facilities in Baghdad. The only difference is that regime or that Iraqi government, at a time they were embarking on a BW programme, would not have missed an opportunity of hanging on to an isolate that they believed could be worth something to them.
WHERE IS THE EVIDENCE?  (WT 4 - slow motion UNSCOM)	So Iraq might have seed stocks of the virus, but what evidence is there that it has tried to turn it into a weapon? There's the much cited freeze-drier found by a British inspector and labelled "smallpox" in Arabic. This could be used to prepare smallpox virus for storage, but equally for processing the related, less potent VACCINE virus. Inspectors were also concerned when they found quantities of fertilised chicken eggs - which would be an ideal way to multiply up smallpox virus for a weapons programme, but again might be used in vaccine manufacture. And then there's Iraq's admission that it worked on camelpox - a related virus - which some experts believe would be the obvious choice as a MODEL for weaponising smallpox, and yet Iraq's camels DO get camelpox.
SYNCH SPERTZEL 00.49 33	We know that they have the capability to make weapons grade product in the other agents and so the only thing that's missing is the final evidence that they've actually done it but there's no question in my mind that with the capability, with the access to the material, with what appears to be the interest of that regime, they do have weapons grade smallpox today.///(edit) that concern on my part was reinforced when Israel, which I think has one of the better intelligence services in the world, started to immunise their first responders with smallpox vaccine

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<p>(WT 5 and 6 - Westminster foreign office pix)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">✓</p>	<p>In public at least, both British and American Governments have been careful in their official assessments of Iraq's bio-weapons, not to mention smallpox, although one of Britain's most senior bio weapons advisors told Newsnight he would rank the likelihood of Saddam having smallpox at 6 out of 10. Britain's foreign Office would not allow him to record an interview for Newsnight. With hard evidence perhaps NEVER likely to appear, some believe the threat of smallpox and other biological agents is a dramatic but convenient pretext for war?</p>
<p>SYNCH SPERTZEL 0.35 54</p>	<p>There's always ostriches with their heads in the sand That's about the only comment I can make on that Iraq may not. It's circumstantial but I think it needs to be looked at very, very carefully because if they're wrong, the impact can be so devastating that I'm not sure we can afford to take that risk.</p>
<p>(WT 7 - eradication jabs pix)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">✓</p>	<p>Smallpox was officially declared eradicated in 1980 - a momentous medical achievement The architect of that programme was DA Henderson. It's hard to find anyone with more practical knowledge of the disease plus scientific credentials and access to politicians that make him unique. He is now chief scientific advisor to the US Health Secretary. For him, the EVIDENCE that Iraq has smallpox remains less than convincing, but one fear haunts him - that the Russian bio weapons programme, which included smallpox research, has somehow leaked to Iraq The prospect of smallpox returning - and as a weapon - has particular poignancy since he thought he'd saved humanity from it...</p>
<p>DA HENDERSON SYNCH</p>	<p>[00.28.54]Well I guess I felt angry. I really.. you know . I'm bitter today, angry with the Russians. What is not well appreciated is that the Russians made an enormous contribution to the eradication effort.///(edit) and to think that at the same time they were working with us, and they worked very closely with us, there was a faction in there who were</p>

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	<p>weaponising smallpox. If they hadn't done this, we would have been in a very different position today. We would not have had the expertise in all the other things can apply to making this weapon, and to think they've done this, I'm very angry. <del>Now, at this point,</del> we should ask the Russians to sit down and talk with us and tell us what they did, what we have, what they have, and how we perceive the risk and where the stocks are and what kind of condition they're in. But so far they've not been willing to open up the laboratories where they have been working with small pox and they've been very <del>secretive,</del> they still are today.</p>
	<p>[00:35:09] So just to be clear, you feel that there is still existing now a Russian bio weapons programme using smallpox?  (Henderson) [00:35:18] from the basis of those who defected from the programme and who some of the still keep in touch with it from a distance that there is indeed a Russian programme largely conducted under the Ministry of Defence and still active today.  <del>///(edit) [00:30:29] It is very critical that we know what the Russians have and now what they might have sent or inadvertently or directly to Iraq.</del></p>
	<p>(Q Watts) What would you like to see the Russians DO specifically?   (SYNC Henderson) [00:33:55] Well I personally would wish that the Russians would sit down with us and those who are engaged in this activity and with the full support of their government talk through what they have done with what organisms and to explain what they are up to today. There is a laboratory (Serjef Pessard?) that (Serjent Pesard?) 45 miles outside of Moscow, that's a secret facility today, and that's where they made upwards of 20 tons of smallpox virus a year. That's a secret facility. If they were . could sit down and we were able to deal with this in an open manner, I think it would go a long way to finding out what others might be doing or could do What they might be doing</p>

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	on the basis of what Russian scientists have gone where and to do what, we'd be much better able to appraise where we are and what we need to do...
(WT 8)	His reckoning is that not KNOWING the scale of the threat doesn't mean we can afford to do nothing ..terrorist attack is his most likely scenario ..
SYNCH DA HENDERSON	We think it would probably come as a release like an aerosol, a fine mist, because the virus put in the powder form, much like the anthrax was that was used in the attacks in the post postal system, if it's in a very fine form, it can go into the air, it can remain suspended for perhaps as long as 24 hours, and be viable, and still infect We know from experience, from epidemics that we've seen, that it really takes a very few particles to infect, so one would anticipate that by some manner of means, the smallpox could be put in an aerosol, a mist, you wouldn't know it was there, and it would simply then begin to drift slowly through a building, through the air conditioning system, or heating system and no one would know that anything had happened until 10-12 days later cases began to occur.
(WT 9)	Coping means you have to have detailed knowledge of how the disease spreads...to an qns like how many would be infected? How fast would it spread? And how far? How would we cope?
(WT 10)	pple misunderstand - not infectious til the pustules appear...immediately you're in bed so you trace family and contacts...explain 500,000 to start with but he thinks no need to go further...and risk to others point...ring vaccination CAN work
SYNCH HENDERSON	Should we go beyond that? Well at this stage it would be well to see what the experience is with this group, and then to see what do we

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	<p>recommend for a larger group. Many would say well this should be in the hands of an individual. Every individual should have the right to say right, I will decide for myself and my family. But this is not quite that simple with this vaccine because first of all this is a vaccine that can cause deaths...</p>
(WT 11)	<p>in fact debate has been raging at all levels...with powerful voices urging much wider PRE-EMPTIVE vaccination ..can't rely on ring vacc</p>
SYNCH SPERTZEL	<p>(not digitised ..00.32:18] I think it's very unlikely to contain because by the time - if an exposure were to occur in a facility in Washington DC or New York City, by the time cases begin to occur, people would be not only scattered all over the US but maybe all over the world and you're going to have ?? of infection literally everywhere Ring vaccination is not going to control that.////(edit) the time to move on it is now. If they wait until an outbreak occurs, an awful lot of people are going to come down with smallpox and die that probably should not have</p>
(WT 12)	<p>But those with the ear of Bush on this say the safety risks are too high to go for widescale pre-emptive vaccination...</p>
SYNCH HENDERSON	<p>Let's see what the net result of this 500,000 is and then we can decide what to do next, and there's no need to I think move ahead aggressively to vaccinate large numbers of people right now.////(edit) let's say within the Department, within the White House, I think there are various views. But it's a tough call, this is a very tough decision to make. There's a question of what is this perception of risk of smallpox being released, and that is unquantifiable</p>
(WT 13 Munich)	<p>Israelis convinced enough to go ahead ..Just two years ago smallpox vaccine simply wasn't being made . - Danish company</p>

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	<p>manufacturing in Germany - which is also supplying German military, Greek Government ..and x others and Britain...Even for the makers uncomfortable fact is side effects...not widely appreciated...in fact, according to published research, they say number of deaths potentially far worse than the one or two deaths per million often quoted</p>
<p>SYNCH PETER WULFF CEO BAVARIAN NORDIC 27 06</p>	<p>not a benign vaccine - great deal of v severe side effects so all govts are v reluctant to make decisions to vaccinate people before there is an actual bio attack..</p>
<p>(WT 14)</p>	<p>?????</p>
<p>(Chaplin slides) overlay slides</p>	<p>02.07 09 eczema - all children vaccinated under age 2 - 40% suffered from disorder immune compromised - most often associated with fatality and last generalised vaccinia infections - v high temp means virus got into bloodstream</p>
	<p>so how many fatalities? 08.48 more than 1 or 2 - even in this study more than 12 cases of encephalitis - high fatality rate. (edit) in this study about 25% couldn't receive current smallpox vaccine and even if these people were excluded and the rest of population were vaccinated there would be around 300 deaths from this vaccine.</p>
<p>(WT 15)</p>	<p>And its fear over safety that has led to BN working on a new, largely untested "safer" vaccine called MVA...Unlike folder vaccines this one does not multiply in the body...need to make clear neither vaccine isn't using smallpox virus.. Explain how the two work, and differ .. US Govt hedging its bets .. has a contract tender out for 30 million doses</p>
<p>Q+ SYNCH PETER WULFF</p>	<p>if there was an attack tomorrow you</p>

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	<p>wouldn't give vaccine to your family?  (sync wolf 28.07 no )  (edit)  28.16 no certainly not i would try to give them MVA instead i am 100% certain it would be efficaceous</p> <p>(Q Watts) So in that case wouldn't the population be demanding the govt order MVA?</p> <p>(sync Wolf) 28.32 i think there is a big push in that direction and its coming from US. concern about people getting side effects and those people even dying . it would be a social disaster in US and i think the push will be similar in europe</p>
(WT 16)	<p>so what happened to plans earlier this year for Europe to work together and even so far as a Euro stockpile of vaccines...?</p>
SYNCH WULFF	<p>22.48 i think maybe events have taken over - now urgency to establish stockpiles in different countries and they will go to won health authorities and get decision quickly rather than waiting for common decision</p>
PTC (Munich)	<p>Plans for a pan-European approach to buying and distributing smallpox vaccine appear close to collapse ...the prospect of War with Iraq has added a sense of urgency to the process and Governments are now going it alone ..</p>
SYNCH LIAM DONALDSON (EX Ten rushes)	<p>synch</p>
(WT 17)	<p>(Depends on what DoH says) But that raised more questions than it answered .WHEN will emergency staff get the vaccine?...can we all have it if we want it? And shouldn't we be putting in orders for MVA too to help get safer one online asap . and German army is using MVA as a primer to get round safety issues. . Is the UK Govt considering this dual approach too?</p>

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	(WT 18 - payoff)