

a number of areas of the proposed guidance, as well as commenting on other areas broadly related to an anthrax release/event that are outside the scope of this guidance (e.g., training and funding for vaccination). DHS, HHS and federal partners considered all of the comments and revised the document as appropriate. Specifically, we have increased the clarity of the document and better integrated guidance from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), including more specificity regarding the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). In addition, a number of changes were made to the document to accommodate evolving knowledge regarding the effectiveness of alternative interventions as well as federal policy in the areas of biological protection and response, particularly efforts to make medical countermeasures more readily available. This included incorporating recommendations from a report published by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), July 23, 2010, regarding the "Use of Anthrax Vaccine in the United States." To access the public comments, please go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> and access the DHS summary describing the guidance (see Docket No. DHS-2009-0091).

DHS and HHS are now announcing the availability of a revised guidance document, *Guidance for Protecting Responders' Health During the First Week Following a Wide-Area Aerosol Anthrax Attack*. This guidance can be viewed or downloaded at <http://www.regulations.gov>, <http://phe.gov> and <http://www.dhs.gov/publication/protecting-responders-health-after-wide-area-aerosol-anthrax-attack>.

DHS developed this guidance in consultation with a federal interagency working group that included subject matter experts in biodefense, infectious diseases, and occupational health and safety. The working group included representatives from HHS; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), NIOSH; the Department of Labor, OSHA; and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The revised guidance reflects the current understanding of the unique environment that would be expected during the first week of a wide-area anthrax release, and is expected to evolve with changes to our understanding regarding exposure risk, scientific developments, and availability of new environmental monitoring

techniques. This guidance is intended to support ongoing planning and preparation efforts, as well as to lay the basis for plans to protect individuals beyond traditional first responders. This planning guidance will be refined as the evidence base is strengthened for determining exposure risk and the efficacy of protective measures. This guidance does not have the force or effect of law.

The DHS Office of Health Affairs is issuing the guidance document for public use on behalf of an interagency coalition.

Dated: October 15, 2012.

**Alexander G. Garza,**

*Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs and Chief Medical Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

[Docket No. DHS-2012-0064]

### Homeland Security Advisory Council

**AGENCY:** The Office of Policy, DHS.

**ACTION:** Notice of open teleconference Federal advisory committee meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) will meet via teleconference for the purpose of reviewing and deliberating on recommendations by the HSAC's Border Infrastructure Task Force.

**DATES:** The HSAC conference call will take place from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST on Thursday, November 8, 2012. Please be advised that the meeting is scheduled for one hour and may end early if all business is completed before 4:30pm.

**ADDRESSES:** The HSAC meeting will be held via teleconference. Members of the public interested in participating in this teleconference meeting may do so by following the process outlined below (see "Public Participation").

Written comments must be submitted and received by November 5, 2012. Comments must be identified by Docket No. DHS-2012-0064 and may be submitted by *one* of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- *Email:* [HSAC@dhs.gov](mailto:HSAC@dhs.gov). Include docket number in the subject line of the message.

- *Fax:* (202) 282-9207

- *Mail:* Homeland Security Advisory Council, Department of Homeland Security, Mailstop 0445, 245 Murray Lane SW., Washington, DC 20528.

**Instructions:** All submissions received must include the words "Department of Homeland Security" and DHS-2012-0064, the docket number for this action. Comments received will be posted without alteration at <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided.

**Docket:** For access to the docket to read comments received by the DHS Homeland Security Advisory Council, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** William Smith at [hsac@dhs.gov](mailto:hsac@dhs.gov) or 202-282-9445.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. The HSAC provides organizationally independent, strategic, timely, specific and actionable advice to the Secretary and senior leadership on matters related to homeland security. The HSAC will meet to review and deliberate on the Border Infrastructure Task Force report of findings and recommendations.

**Public Participation:** Members of the public will be in listen-only mode. The public may register to listen to this HSAC teleconference via the following procedures. Each individual must provide his or her full legal name and email address no later than 5:00 p.m. EST on November 5, 2012, to a staff member of the HSAC via email at [HSAC@dhs.gov](mailto:HSAC@dhs.gov) or via phone at (202) 447-3135. HSAC conference call details and the Border Infrastructure Task Force report will be provided to interested members of the public at the time they register.

**Information on Services for Individuals with Disabilities:** For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities, or to request special assistance during the teleconference, contact William Smith (202) 282-9445.

Dated: October 15, 2012.

**Becca Sharp,**

*Executive Director, Homeland Security Advisory Council, DHS.*

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