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STATEMENT ON ACCIDENTAL SELF INJECTION WITH MINERAL OIL EMULSION VACCINES

All accidental injections should be considered a **SERIOUS MEDICAL EMERGENCY**, and the victim should be seen by qualified medical personnel as soon as possible.

Injection of a mineral oil emulsion may not look serious on the outside. However, injection into tissues that allow minimal swelling, especially areas like fingers and hands where there are a lot of tendons, are cause for great concern. The oil that has been injected is trapped, and it may travel along a tendon sheath or tissue plane. Within minutes severe pain and swelling may begin. The body reacts to the mineral oil by releasing enzymes to break down the emulsion. This process also slowly dissolves the tendon and muscle tissue of the finger or hand. Surgery may be required if the emulsion is not removed early.

Procedure to follow after accidental injection (**THE PROTOCOL FOR A PRESSURIZED OIL INJECTION IS RECOMMENDED**):

1. Immediately apply ice to the area of injection to help reduce potential swelling.
2. Seek medical attention as soon as possible. Take the MSDS sheet for the product with you so medical personnel can identify the materials injected.
3. The affected area should be cleaned as soon as possible. The antigen portion of the vaccine is of little risk to the victim and cannot be transmitted to people as it is merely protein, not whole cell bacteria. However, there is a risk of bacterial infection since the injection was not sterile. For this reason, antibiotics and a tetanus shot may be prudent.
4. Because the vaccine is an emulsion of mineral oil with surfactants, the fluid must be removed. Medical personnel should lance, locally debride and remove the emulsion before tissue reaction begins and causes inflammation.