From: Ivins, Bruce E Dr USAMRIID
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2000 11:32 AM
To: USAMRIID

Subject: FW: Pregnancy and working in anthrax lab

----Original Message----

From: (b) (6) USAMRIID

Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2000 7:48 AM

To: (b) (6)

Cc: Ivins, Bruce E Dr USAMRIID; (b) (6)

Subject: RE: Pregnancy and working in anthrax lab

Hi (b) (6)

Regarding the situation of allowing pregnant women to work in a containment laboratory, I submit the following information. During December 1992, I received legal advice from our lawyer representative regarding Pregnant Women in Biocontainment Suites. A few salient comments were:

- a. The condition of pregnancy does not appear to in any manner prevent a women from performing operations in a BSL-3 and BSL-3a environment.
- b. I can conceive of no risks to other USAMRIID personnel or to anyone else that will be present if a pregnant woman works in such a BSL suite. Consequently, no bona fide occupational qualification exists to lawfully prevent pregnant women from working

in a BSL-3 or BSL-3a suite.

Consequently, it was necessary to identify USAMRIID's responsibilities with regard to pregnant women, their unborn fetuses, and other laboratory employees.

(b) (6) and I discussed this issue in August 1993. It was decided to complete a CONSULTATION SHEET (Standard Form 513) for PREGNANCY AND BIOCONTAINMENT. The CONSULTATION REPORT should include the following:

- 1. Discuss all apparent and potential risks for the biocontainment suite or laboratory (such as immunizations and laboratory-acquired infections).
- 2. Explain how USAMRIID has identified the risks (such as the type of procedure [aerosol or animal inoculation], and infection or intoxication incidence).
- 3. Explain that a decision to limit work in a biocontainment suite or laboratory at a particular stage of pregnancy is justified to insure an effective emergency response, if needed.
- 4. Acknowledge (by signature or initialing) that the individual has understood this consult and was notified of all apparent and potential risks.

5. DO NOT INCLUDE, OR MAKE REFERENCE TO, A WAIVER OF LIABILITY.

I hope my comments provide you with some information. Let me know if you need more information or more history.

It is a difficult and delicate situation.

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----Original Message----
From: (D) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2000 4:39 PM
Subject: FW: Pregnancy and working in anthrax lab
> ----Original Message-----
> From: (6) (6)
> Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2000 4:20 PM
> To:
> Subject:
             Pregnancy and working in anthrax lab
>
> Dear
> Bruce Ivins gave me your name and email address. Bruce and I have worked
> collaboratively and competitively (b) (6)
                                                              I am
> spending (b) (6)
                               endeavoring to help in their
> BT response unit.
> The question I was asking was whether USAMRIID had a written policy on
> pregnant women working in the anthrax laboratory. This assumes that, at
> the time they test positive for pregnancy, their vaccination status is OK.
> Bruce said pregnant women are not allowed in biocontainment suites, but
> then added that (b) (6)
                                        was permitted to continue working in
> a Racal suit.
> The problem, I imagine, with coming up with a policy is that the person
> will have been pregnant for several weeks before knowing it and so the
> point at which she can sudenly no longer enter the laboratory is somewhat
> arbitrary.
>
> Has this been discussed and any formula formulated in USAMRIID?
> Thank you.
> Sincerely,
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