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# VACCINE POINTS

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“Vaccine Points” is a bi-monthly communication distributed by the Hawaii Department of Health to all participating Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers.

Test your vaccine knowledge.

Question: Which vaccine preventable disease did President Abraham Lincoln fall ill with shortly after delivering his Gettysburg Address?

- a) Diphtheria
- b) Typhoid
- c) Measles
- d) Yellow Fever
- e) Smallpox

Answer: e) Smallpox

After giving the Civil War speech in 1863, President Lincoln became ill with symptoms of high fever, weakness, severe pain in the head and back, extreme fatigue, and skin eruptions that lasted for three weeks.

“Lincoln’s physicians attempted to reassure him that his disease was a mild form of smallpox, but that may have been to prevent the public from fearing that Lincoln was dying” said Dr. Armond Goldman, emeritus professor pediatrics at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston.

Smallpox, which was eradicated in 1979, was widespread in the 1800s and killed 30 percent of first-time victims.

Sources:

Lincoln came near death from smallpox

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-smallpox-lincoln-idUSN1736866620070517>

Abraham Lincoln, Smallpox, and the Gettysburg Address

<https://www.civilwarprofiles.com/abraham-lincoln-smallpox-and-the-gettysburg-address/>

The History of Vaccines

<https://www.historyofvaccines.org/content/lincoln-contracts-smallpox>

