





BIOTERRORISM SYNDR

If you suspect disease from a potential bioterrorism event, call your local Public Health Office IMMEDIATELY:

your local Public Health Office will arrange for specialized lab testing; guidelines for prophylaxis, and infection control; and activate local, state, and federal emergency response.

| Syndrome | Bioterrorism threat disease description | Differential diagnosis | Picture | Initial laboratory & other diagnostic test results |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| Acute Respiratory Distress with Fever | Inhalational Anthrax Abrupt onset of fever, chest pain, respiratory distress without radiographic findings of pneumonia, no history of trauma or chronic disease, progression to shock and death within 24-36 hours. | Dissecting aortic aneurysm, pulmonary embolism, influenza |  | Chest x-ray with widened mediastinum; gram-positive bacilli in sputum or blood; definitive testing available at the your local Public Health Laboratory. |
| | Pneumonic Plague Apparent severe community-acquired pneumonia but with hemoptysis, cyanosis, gastrointestinal symptoms, shock. | Community-acquired pneumonia, Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, meningococemia, rickettsiosis, influenza |  | Gram-negative bacilli or coccobacilli in sputum, blood or lymph node; safety-pin appearance with Wright or Giemsa stain; definitive testing available at the your local Public Health Laboratory. |
| | Ricin (aerosolized) Acute onset of fever, chest pain and cough, progressing to respiratory distress and hypoxemia; not improved with antibiotics; death in 36-72 hours. | Plague, Q fever, staphylococcal enterotoxin B, phosgene, tularemia, influenza | | Chest x-ray with pulmonary edema. Consult with your local Public Health office regarding specimen collection and diagnostic testing procedures. |
| | Staphylococcal Enterotoxin B Acute onset of fever, chills, headache, nonproductive cough and myalgia (influenza-like illness) with a NORMAL chest x-ray. | Influenza, adenovirus, mycoplasma | | Primarily clinical diagnosis. Consult with your local Public Health office regarding specimen collection and diagnostic testing procedures. |
| Acute Rash with Fever | Smallpox Papular rash with fever that begins on the face and extremities and uniformly progresses to vesicles and pustules; headache, vomiting, back pain, and delirium common. | Varicella, disseminated herpes zoster, vaccinia, monkeypox, cowpox |  | Clinical with laboratory confirmation; vaccinated, gowned and gloved person obtains specimens (scabs or swabs of vesicular or pustular fluid). Call your local Public Health office immediately before obtaining specimen; definitive testing available through CDC. |
| | Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (e. g., Ebola) Fever with mucous membrane bleeding, petechiae, thrombocytopenia and hypotension in a patient without underlying malignancy. | Meningococemia, malaria, typhus, leptospirosis, borreliosis, thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP), hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS) |  | Definitive testing available through your local Public Health Laboratory network-call your local Public Health office immediately. |
| Neurologic Syndromes | Botulism Acute bilateral descending flaccid paralysis beginning with cranial nerve palsies. | Guillain-Barre syndrome, myasthenia gravis, mid-brain stroke, tick paralysis, Mg ⁺⁺ intoxication, organophosphate, carbon monoxide, paralytic shellfish, or belladonna-like alkaloid poisoning, polio, Eaton-Lambert myasthenic syndrome | | CSF protein normal; EMG with repetitive nerve stimulation shows augmentation of muscle action potential; toxin assays of serum, feces, or gastric aspirate available at your local Public Health Laboratory. Call your local Public Health office to request testing. |
| | Encephalitis (Venezuelan, Eastern, Western) Encephalopathy with fever and seizures and/or focal neurologic deficits. | Herpes simplex, post-infectious, other viral encephalitides | | Serologic testing available at your local Public Health Laboratory. |
| | Brucellosis | | | Time dependent serologic testing |