

Town of Redding

Bioterrorism : Fact - Info Sheet

The following was developed to help educate Redding residents on bioterrorism; specifically anthrax, small pox, and how to respond.

Anthrax is an acute infectious disease caused by the spore-forming bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*. It is an invisible bacteria that can live in soil, water, and dead animals.

Anthrax is most commonly spread two ways:

- 1) Inhalation - First appears as flu-like symptoms (1-7 days) fever, malaise, fatigue, cough, mild chest discomfort. It can be treated successfully with antibiotics promptly after contact.
- 2) Skin Contact - First appears as a rash or blister that might resemble a bite, progressing into a painless ulcer with a black area in the center. It can be treated effectively with antibiotics.

Anthrax is **not** spread from person to person. Those who come into contact with persons sick with anthrax cannot acquire the disease.

What To Do should you receive a suspicious letter or package?

- 1) DO NOT PANIC
- 2) DO NOT shake or empty the contents; DO NOT try to clean up powders or fluids.
- 3) LEAVE the room containing the letter/package and CLOSE the door to keep others away.
- 4) WASH your hands with soap and water.
- 5) REPORT the incident to the police (938-3550).

Smallpox is a remote threat. This information is provided due to its recent publicity. Smallpox is an extremely contagious viral infection that affects only humans. It was largely eliminated from the world in 1977. Symptoms include fever, aches, vomiting, and a distinct rash. Smallpox can be prevented with smallpox vaccination, which was discontinued in the US in 1972. Persons who have been vaccinated against smallpox in the past probably have only limited, if any, antibody protection against this disease. The smallpox vaccine is not commercially available, however in the event of an outbreak The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has the means to provide the vaccine for those exposed and are currently in the process of increasing the supply. There is no recommendation to vaccinate unless there is an outbreak. See the CDC web site (www.bt.cdc.gov/) for more information.

Important phone numbers and web sites on next page.

TOWN OF REDDING

Bioterrorism

Important phone numbers and related web sites

Redding Health Department-938-2559

Redding Police Department- 911

Connecticut Department of Public Health (CTDPH) (860) 509-8000

CTDPH web site <http://www.state.ct.us/dph>

Center for Disease Control (CDC) web site www.bt.cdc.gov/

Danbury Hospital web site www.danburyhospital.org click on “Bioterrorism Resources”

See back side for fact-info sheet