

Weapons of Mass Destruction Agent Quick Reference Guide

Contact Phone Numbers:
PA DOH (24 hrs): (877) 724-3258

Poison Control: (800) 222-1222
CDC Bioterrorism Response : (404) 639-0385

BIOLOGICAL AGENTS * = Person to person transmission				
Agent	Incubation	Symptoms	Transmission	Treatment
Bacteria				
Anthrax (Inhalational)	1 – 6 d	Fever/chills, malaise, fatigue, cough Late: Severe resp. distress, shock	Aerosol	Cipro 400mg IV BID; OR Doxycycline 200mg IV, then 100mg IV BID; OR PCN 4 mill units IV q 4
Brucellosis	1 – 2 mo.	Fever/chills, headache, malaise, anthralgia, myalgia	Aerosol	Doxycycline 200mg/day po, PLUS rifampin 600-900mg/day po X 6 weeks
Plague (Inhalational)	2 – 3 d	Fever/chills, headache, hemoptysis, toxemia. Late: Resp. failure, shock, DIC	Aerosol*	Cipro 400mg IV BID IV; OR Doxycycline 200mg IV, then 100mg IV BID; change to PO after improvement
Tularemia (Inhalational)	3 – 5 d	Fever/chills, headache, malaise	Aerosol	Gentamycin 3-5mg/kg/day IV X14; OR Cipro 400mg IV BID until improved; then 750mg po BID X14
Q fever	2 – 40 d	Fever/chills, cough, pleuritic chest pain	Aerosol	Tetracycline 500mg PO TID X 7; OR Doxycycline 100mg PO BID X 7
Viruses				
Smallpox	10 – 12 d	Fever/chills, headache, malaise, backache	Aerosol*	Supportive
Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers	4 – 21 d	Fever/chills, headache, malaise, myalgia Late: Bleeding, petechiae, hypotension, shock	Aerosol* Direct	Supportive
Biological Toxins				
Botulinum toxins (Inhalational)	Sx begin 12 – 72 hrs	Ptsosis, progressive descending bulbar, muscular, and resp. weakness; Late: Resp. failure	Aerosol PO	Antitoxin and Supportive
Staphylococcal Enterotoxin B (Aerosol)	Sx begins 3 – 12 hrs	Fever/chills, headache, myalgia, cough	Aerosol PO	Supportive
Ricin (Inhalational)	Sx begin 4 – 8 hrs	Fever/chills, cough, malaise, dyspnea Late: Pulm. Edema and resp. failure	Aerosol	Supportive
Tricothecene mycotoxins (T2)	Sx begin 2 – 4 hrs	Necrosis and sloughing of affected tissues Late: Prostration, collapse, shock	Aerosol, Dermal, Eye, PO	Supportive

Standard personal protection for all biological WMD includes gloves, gowns, and mask. HEPA-mask is recommended for plague, smallpox, and other viral pathogens.

Personal Protection Equipment Levels:

- Level A:** Fully encapsulated suit with SCBA
- Level B:** Non-encapsulated suit with SCBA
- Level C:** Splash suit (tyvek coveralls) with or without a cartridge respirator

CHEMICAL AGENTS				
Agent	Signs and Symptoms	Decontamination	Persistence	
Nerve Agents				
Tabun GA	Salivation Lacrimation Urination Defecation Gastric disturbances Emesis	Remove contaminated clothing. Flush with a soap & water solution for patients. Flush with large amounts of a 5% bleach & water solution for objects.	1-2 days if heavy concentration	
Sarin GB			1-2 days will evaporate with water	
Soman GD			Moderate, 1-2 days	
V Agents VX			High, 1 week if heavy concentration As viscous as motor oil	
Vesicants (Blister Agents)				
Sulfur Mustard H	Acts first as a cell irritant, then as a cell poison. Conjunctivitis, reddened skin, blisters, nasal irritation, inflammation of throat and lungs.	Remove contaminated clothing. Flush with a soap & water solution for patients. Flush with large amounts of a 5% bleach & water solution for objects.	Very high, days to weeks.	
Distilled Mustard HD			Moderate	
Nitrogen Mustard HN 1, 3			Days, rapid hydrolysis with humidity	
Mustargen HN 2			Low, 2 hours in soil	
Lewisite L	Immediate pain with blisters later.			
Phosgene Oxime CX	Immediate pain with blisters later – necrosis equivalent to second and third degree burns.			
Chemical Asphyxiants (Blood Agents)				
Hydrogen Cyanide AC	Cherry red skin or ~30% cyanosis. Patients may appear to be gasping for air. Seizures prior to death. Effect is similar to asphyxiation, but is more sudden.	Remove contaminated clothing. Flush with a soap & water solution for patients. Flush with large amounts of a 5% bleach & water solution for objects.	Extremely volatile, 1-2 days	
Cyanogen Chloride CK			Rapidly evaporates and disperses	
Arsine SA			Low	

Standard personal protection for all unknown chemical WMD agents is level A.