RHD & TMC

Bioterrorism Readiness

The Facts

The CDC has stated there are 4 "more likely" diseases that may be used as a biological weapon (bioterrorism), and 4 diseases that are "less likely" to be used in a bioterrorism attack. RHD & TMC are ready for a biological weapon attack because of the ***isolation system we practice all the time*** called **STANDARD PRECAUTIONS** (See your Infection Control & Employee Health Manual policy # 1.4 "Standard Precautions").

EVERYBODY IS IN STANDARD PRECAUTIONS SO WE NEVER TOUCH ANYTHING MADE BY THE HUMAN BODY WITHOUT AT LEAST WEARING GLOVES. THINK YOUR EYES, NOSE, OR MOUTH MAY BE SPLASHED WITH BLOOD OR BODY FLUID? COVER THEM ALSO (MASK, GOGGLES, GOWN).

Of the 8 diseases the CDC believe may be stable enough for a 'biological attack' on people, only 3 diseases require "additional" isolation precautions up and above routine "Standard Precautions" (see table below). The excellent news?! Unless "smallpox" is used, we would *not be easily exposed* to a bioterrorism attack because we practice Standard Precautions every day. We are prepared to handle smallpox, because we have 14 'special ventilation rooms' and can make more if needed in less than 2 hours.

CDC Plan for Bioterrorism Attacks

Disease	More Likely	Less Likely	Isolation Needed
Anthrax	✓		Standard Precautions
Botulism	✓		Standard Precautions
Plague: Bubonic Plague: Pneumonic	✓		Bubonic-Standard Precautions Pneumonic-*Droplet Precautions
Smallpox**	✓		*Airborne/Contact Precautions
Tularemia		✓	Standard Precautions
Brucellosis		✓	Standard Precautions
Q Fever		✓	Standard Precautions
Viral Hemorrhagic		✓	*Contact Precautions

* Read the RULES of each isolation precaution on the signs in the IC/EH Manual

** June 1977 was the last case of smallpox; therefore, not listed in CDC disease list

Prepared by your RHD/TMC Bioterrorism Task Force

Source: RHD Memorial Medical Center; Trinity Medical Center, Dallas.