

ATTENTION: Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS, Emergency Management, Hospitals, Hazmat Teams, and Local Public Health Officials.

NOT FOR PUBLIC DISSEMINATION!

STATE OF IOWA GUIDELINES
HOW TO HANDLE SUSPECTED BIOLOGICAL AGENTS (ANTHRAX)

These guidelines were established in collaboration with the FBI, Department of Public Safety, Local Law Enforcement, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Public Health, University Hygienic Laboratory and the Emergency Management Division.

ACTION STEP “A”: Initial action steps to be taken by first responders.

✓	#	Initial Action Steps for First Responders
	1.	Immediately set suspected package/container down, do not handle it more than necessary. Minimize number of handlers.
	2.	Secure the room or area. Avoid spreading possible contamination to other locations.
	3.	Move everyone in the immediate area of the suspect package/container/substance to nearest secure room.
	4.	At minimum, have individual(s) wash possible exposed area(s) with warm water and soap at nearest sink.
	5.	For more extensive possible exposure, have individual remove clothing, place in clear plastic bag, seal bag, and shower at nearest location.
	6.	Notify local law enforcement immediately, if not already present.
	7.	Obtain further direction from local law enforcement.

ACTION STEP “B”: Law enforcement processing of suspected threat information.

✓	#	Law Enforcement Action Steps
	1.	Secure area if not already done.
	2.	If threat is suspected to be explosive and assistance is needed, contact the State Fire Marshal’s Office at (515) 281-5821.
	3.	Use official FBI screening criteria and determine if threat is credible. A copy of this criteria may be obtained by calling DPS at (515) 281-5138. If a non-credible threat, proceed to Action Step “E” on page 2.
	4.	Local law enforcement screening criteria may be used to determine if threat is credible.
	5.	If local law enforcement needs assistance in conducting a credible threat investigation, they should notify the Iowa State Patrol Communication Center who will contact appropriate DPS personnel for assistance. (phone numbers on page 2)

ACTIONS STEP “C”: Credible threat determined – pending laboratory results.

✓	#	Action Steps for CREDIBLE THREAT DETERMINED (follow chain of custody for evidence)
	1.	Coordinate efforts with local officials from fire, hazmat, EMS, public health, hospitals and emergency management.
	2.	Immediately notify Iowa Department of Public Health 1-866-834-9671 (24 Hour Emergency Hotline Number)
	3.	Immediately notify nearest FBI office.
	4.	Consider contacting local hazmat team (or hazmat team member with protective clothing and detection equipment) to prepare suspect package/letter/specimen for transport to the State Hygienic Laboratory.
	5.	The package/letter/suspect item(s) should be triple bagged in clear, sealable, plastic bags in succession to assure third bag is NOT contaminated. Clothing from individuals who came in contact with the suspect items should be bagged and sealed in a clear plastic bag and stored until test results are returned. The storage area needs to be determined by local officials.
	6.	The law enforcement agency or FBI that determined the credible threat should contact the University Hygienic Laboratory at (319) 335-4500 and discuss credible threat specimen(s) and anticipated time of arrival of specimen at the laboratory. Do not send large items. The lab can test only items 14” by 12” by 8” or smaller. Send a piece of the item, or send a swab sampling from the non-porous surface.(Refer to UHL’s Anthrax Collection Protocol)
	7.	The law enforcement agency or FBI that determined the credible threat is responsible for transporting the specimen to the University Hygienic Laboratory.
	8.	Once the specimen is properly packaged, the person(s) transporting the specimen to the laboratory are not required to wear or use protective clothing/equipment.
	9.	The laboratory tests should be completed within 3 days from the time the specimen was received at the lab. Positive (+) test results will be reported by the University Hygienic Laboratory directly to the Department of Public Health and they will notify appropriate authorities/individuals and provide consultation and direction on necessary actions. Negative (-) test results will be reported to the law enforcement agency that submitted the sample for testing within 3 days. DO NOT CONTACT LABORATORY FOR RESULTS. If the test result is (-) follow non-credible threat action step “E”.
	10.	Consult with the Department of Public Health and FBI on protective action recommendations and media inquiries.
	11.	Decontamination may be initiated with 1 part bleach to 9 parts water, applied to surfaces and objects for 10 minutes.
	12.	Anthrax symptoms usually occur within 1 to 7 days after exposure (but can be as much as 40+ days after exposure). There is time to test an exposure (i.e. a credible threat letter) before you need to start prophylactic antibiotics.

ACTION STEP "D": Department of Public Health for credible threats and (+) laboratory tests.

✓	#	Actions Steps: DPH for credible threats and (+) laboratory tests.
	1.	Provide decontamination procedures for area involved.
	2.	Establish quarantine guidelines if necessary.
	3.	Recommend medical treatment required if necessary. DPH may consult with local physician.
	4.	Determine when re-entry into affected area is appropriate.
	5.	Make notification to the Center for Disease Control as appropriate.
	6.	Deploy personnel to the field as necessary.
	7.	Recommend protective clothing and equipment for first responders.
	8.	Assist in making arrangements for testing at the University Hygienic Laboratory if necessary.

ACTION STEP "E": Non-credible threat determined.

✓	#	NON-CREDIBLE THREAT DETERMINED
	1.	When the investigation results in determination of a <u>non-credible</u> threat associated with the suspect package/letter a laboratory test is NOT recommended.
	2.	Local officials should develop and follow local criteria for handling non-credible threat items (discard, return to owner, place in storage etc). In individual is ill following contact with suspect package/letter consult with local physicians before discarding items.
	3.	Decontamination may be done with 1 part bleach to 9 parts water applied to surfaces and objects for 10 minutes.
	4.	Personal belongings may be returned to owner.
	5.	Clothing should be washed and dried on warmest setting appropriate for garment.
	6.	Occupants of homes, businesses, and government buildings can resume normal occupancy.

Department of Public Health
(866) 834-9671 (Emergency Hotline)
(800) 362-2736 (General Information)

Emergency Management Division
(515) 281-3231

University Hygienic Laboratory
(319) 335-4500

Iowa State Patrol Communication Centers
Des Moines (515) 323-4360
Atlantic (712) 243-3854

State Fire Marshal
(515) 281-5821

Cedar Falls (319) 277-4761
Cedar Rapids (319) 396-4414
Fairfield (515) 472-5001

Department of Natural Resources
(515) 281-8694

Storm Lake (712) 732-1341

Ensure local law enforcement communication centers have updated the local, state, and federal emergency response personnel 24 hour notification roster.

Questions/Clarification

Questions or need for clarification regarding these guidelines may be addressed to Jerry Ostendorf, Emergency Management Division at the 24 hour number: (515) 281-3231.