

BIOTERRORISM PLANNING:

The Local Scene



**Brazos County Health Department
Emergency Preparedness and Response Division**



Anti-Bioterror Efforts Funded by Federal Grant through Texas Department of State Health Services

- Focus area A – Planning
- Focus area B – Epidemiology
- Focus area E –
Communications
- Focus area F – Risk
Communication
- Focus area G - Training

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So What Do We Really Have to Do??????

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Convince local agencies and hospitals that Public Health is a player!!!!

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- Law enforcement
- Fire
- EMS
- Emergency Management
- Hospitals
- Health Practitioners
- Local Officials
- Health Department Personnel

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Getting the Word Out

- Stakeholders meetings
- Coordination with Emergency Management
- Internal meetings/exercises
- Presentations to local leadership
- Presentations to civic groups
- School of Rural Public Health
- Family Practice Residency
- Training (BDLS)
- Small Business Academy
- Pharmacist Association
- Smallpox

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Getting the Word Out

- Brochures in Spanish and English
- Emergency Preparedness Brochure in cooperation with our COG
- TV coverage – West Nile, Smallpox
- Website (www.brazoshealth.org)
- The ALL important refrigerator magnet.....

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Diseases reportable weekly:

AIDS
 Amebiasis
 Botulism (infant)
 Campylobacteriosis
 Chancroid
 Chikungunya (usides Ia)
 Chlamydia and Neisseria infection
 Clostridium difficile disease
 Cryptosporidiosis
 Cyclosporiasis
 Dengue
 Drowning
 Ehrlichiosis
 Encephalitis (specify etiology)
 Escherichia coli, enterohemorrhagic
 Gonorrhea
 Hansen's disease (leprosy)
 Hantavirus infection
 Hemolytic uremic syndrome
 Hepatitis B, D, E, and unspecified (acute)
 Hepatitis C (newly diagnosed infection)
 HIV
 Lead, adulterated blood (>25 µg/dl)
 Lead, childhood adulterated blood (>10 µg/dl)

Diseases IMMEDIATELY reportable

Anthrax
 Botulism, foodborne
 Diphtheria
 Haemophilus influenzae type B infection, invasive
 Meningococcal infection, invasive

Miscellaneous (rubeola)
 Pertussis
 Plague
 Poliomyelitis, acute paralytic
 Rabies, human
 Smallpox
 Viral hemorrhagic fever
 Yellow fever

BIOTERRORISM:

Anthrax Botulism
Plague Smallpox
Ricin



Diseases reportable within one working day:

Bruceellosis Tuberculosis
 Hepatitis A (acute) Tularemia
 Q fever VZV infection (including chickenpox)
 Rubella

Contact: Brazos County Health Department

During the day: (979)361-4450 to report ALL listed conditions

**To report a BIOTERRORISM incident after hours:
(979)361-3888 (911 dispatch)**

Legionellosis
 Listeriosis
 Lyme disease
 Malaria
 Meningitis (specify type)
 Mumps
 Pesticide poisoning acute occupational
 Relapsing fever
 Salmonellosis, including typhoid fever
 Shigellosis
 Sibilicosis
 Spotted fever group rickettsiosis
 Streptococcal disease (group A or B), invasive
 Syphilis
 Tetanus
 Trichinosis
 Typhus
 Yersiniosis

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APATHY

But we are making some
progress.

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Barriers to Further Progress

- **National level objectives become confused when they finally are translated to the local level.**



Barriers to Further Progress

- Training tends to be superficial and lacks any depth or “hands on” application.
- We are asked to train people when we, ourselves, are not trained.



Barriers to Further Progress

- **Timelines are always in flux.**
 - **Must receive permission to:**
 - **Attend training**
 - **Conduct exercises**
 - **Travel**
 - **Modify contract**



Barriers to Further Progress

- **Assessment tools are redundant and the results are not utilized.**



Barriers to Further Progress

- The rules keep changing without the changes being properly communicated.
 - Compartmentalization
 - State Auditor's Office



Barriers to Further Progress

- We keep asking our partners to engage in “unfunded mandates”
- There is quite a bit of duplicated effort
 - BT-HRSA
 - DEM-Public Health

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We Are Making Progress

- We now have plans for mass vaccination and medication that did not exist before.
- Surveillance capabilities are improved.
- Equipment has been obtained
 - Communications
 - Response
- We are gaining recognition and acceptance

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Thank you.

Mike Paulus, Coordinator
Kate Jackson, Assistant
Coordinator/Epidemiologist

(979) 361-4450

mpaulus@co.brazos.tx.us

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