

BT categories and resources

Bioterrorism agents are classified into three main categories, ranked in order of potential threat:

Category A

These are the Big 6 in bioterror: anthrax, botulism, plague, smallpox, tularemia, and viral hemorrhagic fevers (Ebola, Crimean-Congo, Lassa, or Marburg viruses), described on following pages.

Category A agents are considered the highest risk because they:

- can be easily disseminated or transmitted from person to person
- result in high mortality rates and have the potential for major public health impacts
- cause panic and social disruption
- require special public health preparedness (for example, your reading this document right now).

Category B

Diseases and agents in this category have these properties:

- moderately easy to disseminate
- moderate morbidity rates and low mortality rates
- require specific enhancements of CDC's diagnostic capacity and enhanced disease surveillance.

Examples in this category include: brucellosis, glanders, Q fever, typhus fever, psittacosis, and viral encephalitis. Also included are food safety threats like *E. coli* O157:H7, salmonella, and shigella; water safety threats like cryptosporidium and cholera; and the toxin ricin and epsilon toxin of *Clostridium*.

Category C

These are emerging pathogens that could be bio-engineered for mass dissemination. These diseases:

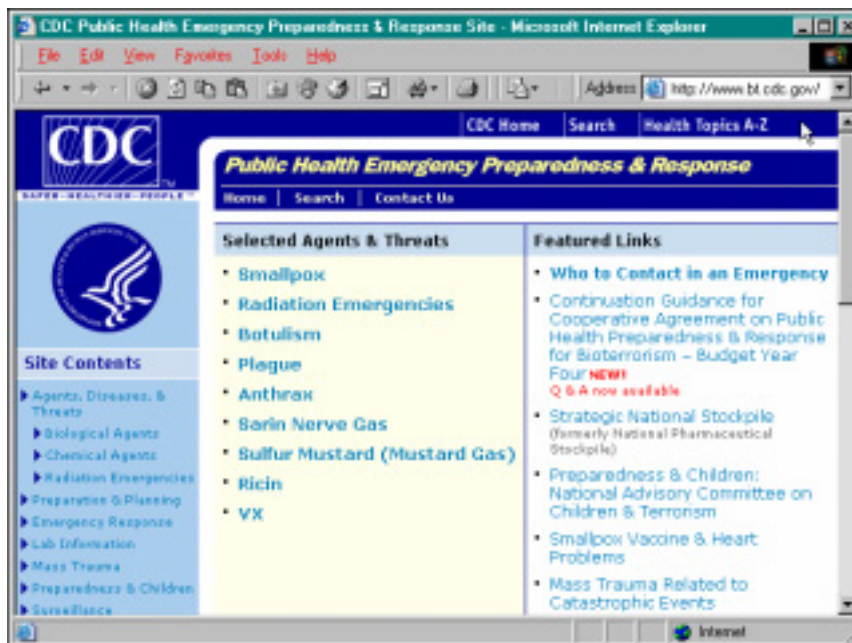
- are readily available
- are relatively easy to produce and disseminate
- have the potential for high morbidity and mortality rates and major health impacts.

Examples include emerging diseases such as Nipah virus and hantavirus.

Staying current

Information about BT agents is constantly evolving. Stay up to date by visiting the following authoritative websites:

www.bt.cdc.gov/



Website of the federal Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), which leads the nation's public health emergency preparedness and response.

www.santacruzhealth.org/phealth/cd/bioterrorism/4bioterrprovider.htm

Local information from the Santa Cruz County HSA website.

www.usamriid.army.mil/education/instruct.html

BT reference library maintained by the US Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases.

www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/bt/pdf/CA_BT_Surv_Epi_Plan-2002b.pdf

The detailed Bioterrorism Surveillance and Epidemiologic Response Plan prepared by California Department of Health Services.

Note: Web addresses above may change, so if you don't find a specific web page, try going to the organization's home page and drilling down from there.

**CDC Bioterrorism Hotline
(770) 488-7100**