



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
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Commissioner

2011 Alert #21: Reminder to Clinicians on the 10 Year Anniversary of September 11th

Please distribute to staff in the Departments of Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Family Medicine, Neurology, Infection Control, Infectious Disease, Emergency Medicine, Critical Care, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Laboratory Medicine

September 9, 2011

With the tenth anniversary of 9/11 and the news that there is a credible threat of a terrorist attack against New York City this weekend, we remind clinicians to be alert for agents of terrorism, including biologic agents, chemicals and radiation. We are not aware of any specific intelligence on chemical, biologic or radiologic threats, but at times like this, we should all be especially alert to anything unusual.

Please report:

- 1. Any unusual increase or clustering in patients presenting with clinical symptoms that suggest an infectious disease or toxin-mediated outbreak** (*e.g., ≥ 2 patients presenting with unexplained pneumonia, respiratory failure or sepsis, or foodborne illness – especially if occurring in persons who are otherwise healthy. In addition, please notify us regarding a sudden increase in patients presenting with flu-like symptoms*).
- 2. A suspect case of any of the following infectious diseases or poisonings:**

**Anthrax
Botulism**

**Brucellosis
Plague**

**Q Fever
Smallpox**

**Tularemia
Ricin**

(NOTE: More information on potential bioterrorism agents can be found in our 2007 City Health Information bulletin available at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/chi/chi26-7.pdf>)

- 3. Any cluster of patients presenting with signs and symptoms related to possible exposure to radiation or chemical agents such as organophosphates, cyanide or chlorine.**

Please report any concerning health events to the NYC Department of Health. During business hours, report to the Provider Access Line at **1-866-NYCDOH1 (1-866-692 3641)** and After Hours and for any suspect poisonings please call the Poison Control Center at **212-764-7667**.

The New York City medical community has a long history of serving as the eyes and ears of the department. We greatly appreciate your cooperation. If you see something, call us.

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