

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).

Category A agents are considered 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 toxins ricin and Epsilon toxin of Clostridium perfringens.

Category C

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

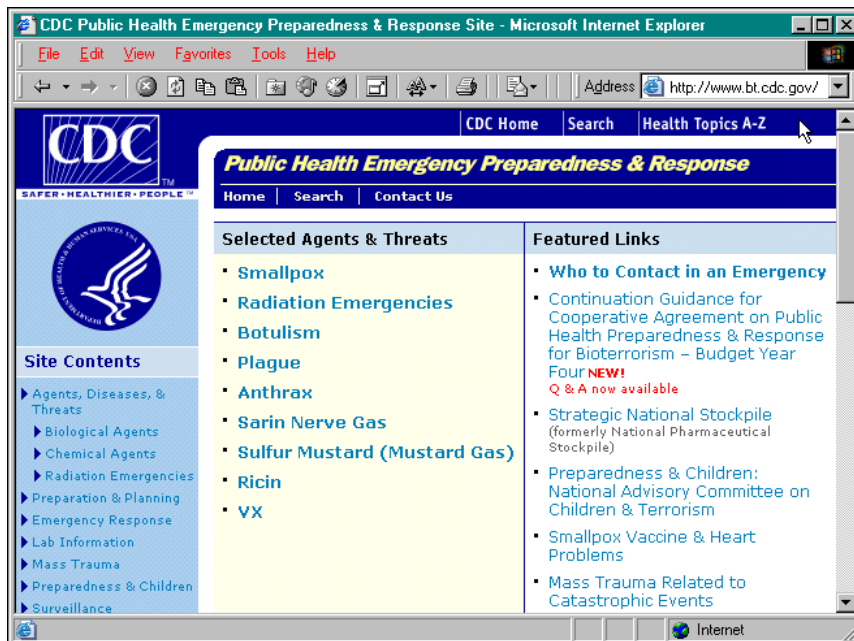
- are readily available
- are relatively easy to produce and disseminate
- have the potential for high morbidity and mortality rates and major health impacts.

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.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**