

## PLANNING AND PREPARING FOR CAROLINE COUNTY

*This publication is prepared by the Caroline County Health Department Bioterrorism Preparedness Program*

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Since September 11, 2001, Caroline County agencies have worked together developing plans to protect citizens and if necessary, to respond to a terrorist attack. While it is highly unlikely that such an attack will happen within our boundaries, our close proximity to the Nation's capital and several nuclear power plants make it imperative that we are ready.

We suggest you place this brochure somewhere readily assessable. It is meant to be a companion piece to the "Guide to Terrorism Preparedness for Caroline County Citizens" distributed last fall. If you need additional copies of either publication, they are available at the Caroline County Health Department website ([www.carolinehd.org](http://www.carolinehd.org)) or by calling 410-479-8008.

### Some Frequently Asked Questions About A Biological Attack

#### **What are Caroline County's response plans in the event of a release of a biological agent into our air?**

In the event of a release, it is very important to listen to your radio for specific instructions. **WCEI 96.7 FM is our local Emergency Radio Channel.** Caroline Emergency Management would let you know if you needed to evacuate the area. You would not be told to evacuate unless absolutely necessary. It is more likely that you would be asked to stay inside for a period of time ("shelter in place").

Depending on what is released, you might have to receive treatment for your protection after the release. There is enough vaccine and medication for everyone and the Federal Government has plans in place to deliver what is needed quickly to the local area.

In the event of a release requiring treatment, there would be a clinic in Caroline County open 24 hours a day until all citizens have been cared for. Citizens would be asked to come with their families and if possible, to bring neighbors who do not have transportation.

While the clinic is open, school buses would run predetermined routes during the daylight hours for those who have no transportation to the clinic. These routes would be published in the paper and broadcast on local radio stations.

Citizens who are already sick from the attack will have a special number to call and arrange to be medically assessed as quickly as possible.

### Should I keep a stockpile of antibiotics in my house?

No. There is no single pill that protects against all types of biological agents and antibiotics have a limited “shelf life” before they lose their strength. If needed, at the time of an event, public health personnel would provide you with the correct dose of antibiotics and instructions on how to take them.

### Should I purchase a gas mask as protection?

No. A mask would only protect you if you were wearing it when the agent was actually released into the air. A release is most likely to occur without anyone knowing it. Also, masks that are not properly fitted will not give you adequate protection. If you happen to be at the place where something is released into the air and you know it, simply put a piece of your clothing or a handkerchief up to your mouth. This may protect you long enough so that you can leave the immediate area.

### How can I help?

In the event of a release, getting the appropriate medicine or vaccine to the citizens of Caroline County efficiently is complicated, and many professional agencies will be involved with the process. However, we will also need volunteers. During the next year, the Bioterrorism Preparedness Department of the Caroline County Health Department will be sponsoring training for volunteers.

## A QUICK GUIDE TO DEAL WITH BIOLOGICAL, CHEMICAL, AND “DIRTY BOMB” ATTACKS

### PREATTACK

#### PREPARATION FOR ANY TERRORIST ATTACK

- Stockpile 3 days of non-perishable food and water (3 gallons for each person)
- Develop family contact plan (how to get in touch via phone, internet or other method)
- Stockpiling antibiotics or gas masks are **NOT** recommended.

#### POST ATTACK ACTIONS FOR

### BIOLOGICAL ATTACKS

- If possible, remain at home unless told to do otherwise by Emergency Management officials
- You have time, treatment does not have to start immediately
- Listen to local news
- If needed, you will be told where to obtain treatment. Do **NOT** immediately rush to the emergency room.

POST ATTACK ACTIONS FOR

CHEMICAL ATTACKS

- IMMEDIATELY leave the chemical attack area
- IMMEDIATELY remove contaminated clothing and shower or flush with water if you were exposed
- Avoid puddles of liquid
- Chemical clouds blow away quickly
- Do **NOT** immediately rush to the Emergency Room unless you have breathed in chemical fumes, or have contamination on your skin.

POST ATTACK ACTIONS FOR

“DIRTY BOMB” ATTACK”

- You have time. The amount of radiation from a dirty bomb is unlikely to give you radiation sickness
- Follow the instructions of emergency personnel
- Do **NOT** immediately go to the emergency room.

For more information, or to arrange for someone to speak to your organization about bioterrorism preparedness, please call: **410-479-8008**

WCEI 96.7 FM  
Caroline County's Local  
Emergency Channel