

# Crime Prevention News

To Enhance the Safety of Faculty, Staff and Students

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World Trade Center

## Terrorism

By Officer Brad Allison

On 9/11/01 the United States and the world changed forever. The terrorist acts that fell upon the World Trade Center and the Pentagon will shape the

way this nation looks at it's homeland defense for years to come. We have to protect America and every aspect within it, airports, chemical plants,dams, food supplies, the internet, malls, mass transit, nuclear power plants, planes, post offices, seaports, skyscrapers, stadiums, and water supplies just to name a few. Who can accomplish all that has to be done? The answer is all of us. We will all have to pay closer attention to our security, whether it is physical or personal, and we are all going to have to be involved. Since September 11, 2001, the University of Iowa with the assistance of the Department of Public Safety has strived to make our community as safe as possible. New policies have been enacted to safeguard our athletic events. For Kinnick stadium this means no bags, fannypacks, or backpacks allowed in the stadium, no half time exit passes, and the searching of purses, blankets, and coats entering the stadium. The same security measures have also been

put into effect at Carver Hawkeye Arena. In addition to these measures, bomb sweeps and additional personnel have been added to the protocol for athletic events. Although, at times, these security measures can be an inconvenience, they are necessary measures to safeguard the university community. We will all have to accept this new world that

we live in, whether it is delays at airports or stadiums, as now a part of our lives. Preparation is the key to deterring terrorism. This means we have to "harden" our assets, or "targets" to terrorists to make them less vulnerable to a terrorist attack. There has been extensive work done here at the University of Iowa to accomplish just that. As citizens of

this great country, we will all have to be aware of our surroundings more than ever. This means reporting to law enforcement suspicious persons and activities, physical security issues in buildings, such as, doors and windows that don't close and lock properly, and anything that you think should be done to safeguard you or this campus.

Together we can decrease our chances of being victimized by terrorists but the months and years ahead of us will be some of the most challenging this country has ever faced.

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*"People think malls (49%) and the food supply (48%) are most vulnerable to terrorist attack"*

*\*Newsweek*

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*"To Serve and Protect"*

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# Anthrax



## Anthrax

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### ❑ What is anthrax?

- acute infectious disease caused by the spore-forming bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*
- most commonly occurs in hoofed mammals (cattle, sheep, goats, camels, antelopes)
- can also occur in humans when they are exposed to infected animals, tissue from infected animals, or spores

### ❑ Why has anthrax become a current issue?

- one death and two illnesses in Florida due to anthrax (October, 2001)
- hoaxes which have occurred in postal and other facilities
- potential agent for use in biological warfare
- Department of Defense (DoD) has begun mandatory vaccination of all active duty military personnel who might be involved in conflict

### ❑ How common is anthrax and who can get it?

- most common in agricultural regions where it occurs in animals
- when it affects humans, it is usually due to an occupational exposure to infected animals or their products
- workers exposed to dead animals and animal products from other countries where anthrax is more common may become infected with *B. anthracis* (industrial anthrax)
- anthrax spores can be produced in a dry form which may be stored and ground into particles which when inhaled can cause disease
- anthrax in wild livestock has occurred in the United States

### ❑ How is anthrax transmitted?

- infection can occur in three ways:
  - cutaneous (skin)
  - inhalation, and
  - gastrointestinal (ingestion)

- spores can live in the soil for many years
- humans can become infected with anthrax by:
  - handling products from infected animals (hair, wool, hides, flesh, bone meal)
  - inhaling anthrax spores
    - eating undercooked meat from infected animals (it is rare to find infected animals in the United States)

### ❑ What are the symptoms of anthrax?

- symptoms usually occur within 7 days of exposure
- symptoms vary depending on how the disease was contracted
- **Cutaneous:**
  - most (about 95%) anthrax infections occur when the bacterium enters a cut or abrasion on the skin
    - can happen when handling contaminated wool, hides, leather or hair products (especially goat hair) of infected animals
    - skin infection begins as a raised itchy bump that resembles an insect bite
    - within 1-2 days develops into a fluid-filled blister and then a painless ulcer, usually 1-3 cm in diameter, with a characteristic black necrotic (dying) area in the center
    - lymph glands in the adjacent area may swell
    - deaths are rare with appropriate antibiotic therapy
- **Inhalation:**
  - initial symptoms may resemble a common cold
  - after several days, the symptoms may progress to severe breathing problems and shock
  - inhalation anthrax is usually fatal

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*“Symptoms of anthrax usually occur within 7 days of exposure”*

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# Anthrax (cont.)

## ➤ **Intestinal:**

- intestinal disease form of anthrax may follow consumption of contaminated meat
- characterized by acute inflammation of the intestinal tract
- initial signs are nausea, loss of appetite, vomiting, fever
- followed by abdominal pain, vomiting of blood, and severe diarrhea

## ❑ **Where is anthrax usually found?**

- can be found globally
- more common in developing countries or countries without veterinary public health programs
- certain regions of the world report more anthrax in animals than others: South and Central America, Southern and Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, and the Middle East

## ❑ **Can anthrax be spread from person-to-person?**

- direct person-to-person spread of anthrax is extremely unlikely to occur
- disease can't be contracted by touching or visiting patients with inhalation anthrax

## ❑ **Is there a way to prevent infection?**

- in countries where anthrax is common and vaccination levels of animal herds are low, humans should:
  - avoid contact with livestock and animal products
  - avoid eating meat that has not been properly slaughtered and cooked
  - an anthrax vaccine has been licensed for use in humans
  - vaccine is reported to be 93% effective in protecting against anthrax (not widely available to civilian population)
- in postal facilities, when a suspected anthrax-containing parcel is found follow procedures listed in MI 860-1999-3, *Emergency Response to Mail Allegedly Containing Anthrax* and your local Emergency Action Plan

## ❑ **How is anthrax diagnosed?**

- anthrax is diagnosed by:
  - isolating *B. anthracis* from the blood, skin lesions, or respiratory secretions, or
  - by measuring specific antibodies in the blood of persons with suspected cases
- inhalation exposure can be determined by isolating spores from nasal passages

## ❑ **Is there a treatment for anthrax?**

- doctors can prescribe effective antibiotics (penicillin, doxycycline, ciproflaxin)
- to be effective, treatment should be initiated early
- treatment should continue for at least 4 weeks after exposure
- if left untreated, the disease can be fatal
- decontamination can be accomplished by boiling contaminated articles in water for 30 minutes or more and using some of the common disinfectants, such as chlorine