

# CDC Bioterrorism Agents

Category A
➤ <b>Anthrax</b> ( <i>Bacillus anthracis</i> )
➤ <b>Botulism</b> ( <i>Clostridium botulinum</i> toxin)
➤ <b>Plague</b> ( <i>Yersinia pestis</i> )
➤ <b>Smallpox</b> (variola major)
➤ <b>Tularemia</b> ( <i>Francisella tularensis</i> )
➤ <b>Viral hemorrhagic fevers</b> (filoviruses [e.g., Ebola, Marburg] and arenaviruses [e.g., Lassa, Machupo])
Category B
➤ <b>Brucellosis</b> ( <i>Brucella species</i> )
➤ <b>Epsilon toxin of Clostridium perfringens</b>
➤ <b>Food safety threats</b> (e.g., <i>Salmonella species</i> , <i>Escherichia coli</i> O157:H7, <i>Shigella</i> )
➤ <b>Glanders</b> ( <i>Burkholderia mallei</i> )
➤ <b>Melioidosis</b> ( <i>Burkholderia pseudomallei</i> )
➤ <b>Psittacosis</b> ( <i>Chlamydia psittaci</i> )
➤ <b>Q fever</b> ( <i>Coxiella burnetii</i> )
➤ <b>Ricin toxin from Ricinus communis</b> (castor beans)
➤ <b>Staphylococcal enterotoxin B</b>
➤ <b>Typhus fever</b> ( <i>Rickettsia prowazekii</i> )
➤ <b>Viral encephalitis (alphaviruses [e.g., Venezuelan equine encephalitis, eastern equine encephalitis, western equine encephalitis])</b>
➤ <b>Water safety threats</b> (e.g., <i>Vibrio cholerae</i> , <i>Cryptosporidium parvum</i> )
Category C
➤ <b>Emerging infectious diseases such as Nipah virus and hantavirus</b>

## Category A Diseases/Agents

The U.S. public health system and primary healthcare providers must be prepared to address various biological agents, including pathogens that are rarely seen in the United States. High-priority agents include organisms that pose a risk to national security 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 impact;
- might cause public panic and social disruption; and
- require special action for public health preparedness.

## Category B Diseases/Agents

Second highest priority agents include those that

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

## Category C Diseases/Agents

Third highest priority agents include emerging pathogens that could be engineered for mass dissemination in the future because of

- availability;
- ease of production and dissemination; and
- potential for high morbidity and mortality rates and major health impact.