

## BIOTERRORISM THREAT

A Bioterrorism Threat is the accidental exposure or deliberate release of viruses, bacteria and other agents that may cause illness or death in people, animals or plants. Biological agents can be spread through the air, water or food. They can be extremely hard to detect and may not cause illness for several hours or days. Some agents, like smallpox, can spread from person to person. Other agents, such as anthrax, are not spread person to person

**Procedure:** The following is the procedure to be followed in the case of a biological threat.

1. Notice of a biological event usually comes from the State Department of Public Health (DPH).
2. Regional Emergency Management Coordinators are notified by DPH when a biological event occurs.
3. Regional Emergency Management Coordinator will notify the Agency that the event has occurred and direct them to the resource information on the biological agent and what actions the Agency should take.
4. Directions will be received from DPH on how to proceed.
5. Clients that live in the area of exposure should be contacted to assess changes in condition.
6. Patients with symptoms that may be the result of the biological exposure will be reported directly to DPH. The report is confidential.
7. Agencies may be directed by DPH to give information to their patients regarding the biological.