

# The CDC Category Listing of Potential Bioterrorism Agents

THE CDC HAS IDENTIFIED SEVERAL AGENTS THAT ARE POTENTIAL BIOTERRORISM THREATS. THEY ARE DIVIDED INTO CATEGORIES BASED ON SEVERAL CRITERIA. THE CATEGORY DESCRIPTION AND AGENTS ARE LISTED BELOW.

## Category A

- High priority
- Easily transmitted from person-to-person
- High mortality rates
- Potential for major public health impact
- Can cause public panic/social disruption
- Requires special action for public health preparedness

Anthrax

*Bacillus anthracis*

Botulism

*Clostridium botulinum* toxin

Plague

*Yersinia pestis*

Tularemia

*Francisella tularensis*

Viral hemorrhagic fevers

Ebola, Marburg,

Lassa, Machupo

## Category B

- Second highest priority
- Moderately easy to disseminate
- Moderately morbidity and low mortality rates
- Specific diagnostics required
- Enhanced disease surveillance

Brucellosis

*Brucella* spp.

Glanders

*Burkholderia mallei*

Melioidosis

*Burkholderia pseudomallei*

Psittacosis

*Chlamydophila psittaci*

Q Fever

*Coxiella burnetii*

Typhus fever

*Rickettsia prowazekii*

Viral encephalitis

Venezuelan equine encephalitis

Eastern equine encephalitis

Western equine encephalitis

Toxins

*Clostridium perfringens*

*Ricinus communis*

*Staph. aureus*

Food safety

*Salmonella* spp.

*E. coli* O157:H7

Water safety

*Vibrio cholerae*

*Cryptosporidium parvum*

## Category C

- Third highest priority
- Emerging pathogens
- Could be engineered for mass dissemination
- Available
- Easy production and dissemination
- Potentially high morbidity and mortality
- Major health impact

Nipah

Nipah virus

Hantavirus

Hantavirus

## Other Important Zoonotic Diseases

Transmissible spongiform

encephalopathy

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy

Chronic wasting disease

Scrapie

Rift Valley fever virus

Hendra virus

West Nile fever

West Nile virus