

Biological Attack

A **biological** release will generally not cause immediate symptoms. In the event of a biological attack, public health officials may not immediately be able to provide information on what you should do. It will take time to determine what the illness is, how it should be treated and who is in danger. Defense against biological attacks is difficult. Knowledge of the location, and even occurrence, of a biological release will usually depend on either direct observation of the release event (e.g., powder falls out of an envelope) or a warning. The first signs may emerge as personnel notice a higher-than-usual incidence of various symptoms. Food poisoning could have some of the same symptoms but would usually not strike many people simultaneously.

Definitions:

Biological incident is as the release of bacteria, viruses and/or toxins that are capable of causing bodily harm or death. A biological agent rarely causes immediate symptoms; a chemical agent almost always does.

Indicators of Biological Incident

Symptoms may not present themselves for 1-20 days, depending on the biological agent, and may include:

1. Fever, headache, chills, sweating, weakness and fatigue
2. Respiratory distress, difficulty talking or eating
3. Joint and muscle pain
4. Nausea

Updated

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Source

Michigan Intelligence Operations Center for Homeland Security

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

More Information

<http://www.michigan.gov/mioc/>

<http://www.fbi.gov/>

<http://www.dhs.gov/index.shtm>

Prevention / Mitigation / Preparedness – Biological Attack

Communicate with the Office of Emergency Preparedness and DPSS to identify local hazards and assist in planning efforts.

Keep updated emergency response procedures for your area.

Post an evacuation route.

Train staff on how to react and evacuate during such an incident as this.

Develop an internal method of communication to alert building occupants of an incident and what life saving action to take.

Response – Biological Attack

Should a biological attack be discovered while in progress, respond as follows:

Outside Biological Attack:

Call 911 immediately and provide the following information:

- Location of incident
- Is anyone injured
- How did incident happen

Stay calm and keep those around you calm.

Try to identify origin and length of symptoms.

Establish a location for shelter-in-place, decontamination or quarantine at the direction/approval of the IC.

Close all doors and windows.

Keep building occupants inside building.

Anyone that may have been exposed should await decontamination instructions.

Isolate all students, faculty and staff who were in the immediate area for exposure evaluation by proper medical personnel.

Remain in the designated area until directed by the IC or outside emergency response agencies.

Inside Biological Attack:

Call 911 immediately and provide the following information:

- Location of incident
- Is anyone injured
- How did incident happen

Stay calm

Attempt to provide ventilation to the affected area by opening the windows and turning on exhaust fans.

Implement the appropriate emergency procedures (i.e., evacuation) to ensure that students, faculty and staff are not exposed to danger.

If evacuating, direct people to go immediately, but in a calm and orderly manner, to the agreed-upon designated area.

If possible, control access to the affected area by closing doors.

Isolate anyone who was in the immediate area for exposure evaluation by proper medical personnel.

Remain in the designated area until directed by the IC or outside emergency response agencies