

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.

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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