



MILPITAS FIRE DEPARTMENT BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

(Provided from the Center for Disease Control)

Q) What should I know about anthrax?

Anthrax. The CDC's course of action for preventing anthrax after exposure in the civilian population would be with antibiotics. The CDC does not recommend vaccination, and the vaccine is not available to health care providers or the general public. The CDC does not recommend that physicians prescribe antibiotics for anthrax at this time. The CDC currently has enough antibiotics to prevent the disease in 2 million persons exposed to anthrax, therefore the CDC could rapidly get preventive medicine to those who may be affected by this disease, which cannot be transmitted between people.

Q) What should I know about smallpox?

Smallpox. The CDC does not recommend vaccination, and the vaccine is not available to health providers or the public. In the absence of a confirmed case of smallpox anywhere in the world, there is no need to be vaccinated against smallpox. There also can be severe side effects to the smallpox vaccine, which is another reason the CDC does not recommend vaccination. In the event of an outbreak, the CDC has clear guidelines to swiftly provide vaccine to people exposed to this disease. The vaccine is securely stored for use in the case of an outbreak. In addition, Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson recently announced plans to accelerate production of a new smallpox vaccine.

Q) What should I do to be prepared?

Preparedness. The threat of terrorism has been brought home to America in a shockingly personal manner. However, it is not a new threat and you can do something about it. Becoming informed and prepared is the most important step in dealing with terrorism. For preparedness information, contact the Milpitas Office of Emergency Services at 408-586-2810. You can also find valuable information at the following Web sites:

<http://www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov>

<http://www.aomc.org/ComDiseases/Anthrax.html>

<http://www.cdc.gov>

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov>

<http://www.fbi.gov>