

SAMPLE HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN (HASP)

Source: OSHA.

14.0 SAFETY DATA SHEET (SDS)

Anthrax (*Bacillus Anthracis*) Safety Data Sheet

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS
Aerobic, large gram positive rods occurring in chains; non-motile; forms resistant spores
HEALTH HAZARD INFORMATION
<i>Pathogenicity:</i> Cutaneous Anthrax – itching, boils, and formation of a black scab (5-20% case fatality in untreated cases); inhalation anthrax – fever, chest pain, & difficulty breathing (usually fatal); gastrointestinal anthrax – abdominal distress, fever, nausea, vomiting, & diarrhea (25-60% case fatality)
<i>Infectious Dose:</i> 8,000 to 50,000 spores by inhalation
<i>Mode of Transmission:</i> Infection of skin by contact; inhalation anthrax results from inhalation of spores; gastrointestinal anthrax results from ingestion of spores
<i>Incubation Period:</i> Can vary with form of disease. CDC reports 1-12 days for cutaneous anthrax, 1-7 days for gastrointestinal anthrax, and "unclear" for human inhalational anthrax, but reported to range from 1-7 days, and may be as much as 60 days
<i>Communicability:</i> Transmission from person to person is very rare
<i>Drug Susceptibility:</i> Susceptible to penicillin (except for inhalation anthrax in which the mortality remains high); ciprofloxacin, doxycycline, tetracyclines, erythromycin, & chloramphenicol
<i>Medical Surveillance:</i> Monitor for suspicious skin lesions and other symptoms; laboratory confirmation through direct microscopy, culture, immunological techniques
EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO POTENTIAL EXPOSURE
Wash hands with soap and water; shower with soap and water; prompt treatment with high dose antibiotics
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS, CLEANUP PERSONNEL, AND INVESTIGATORS
See the "Red Zone" PPE guidance in OSHA's Anthrax Matrix (http://www.osha.gov/bioterrorism/anthrax/matrix/anthraxmatrixred.html)