

# **This is an official CDC HEALTH ADVISORY**

Distributed via Health Alert Network  
Saturday, February 23, 2002, 13:51 EST (1:51 PM EST)  
CDCHAN-00077-2002-02-23-ADV-S

## **Possible Anthrax Incident at Fort McPherson Army Base, Atlanta, Georgia**

On February 22, 2002, at 5:30 PM EST, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) was notified of a possible anthrax incident at Fort McPherson Army Base, Atlanta, Georgia. HAZMAT responded and reported the presence of a package containing a white powder. Initial field tests (Guardian BTA Strips) were positive for *Bacillus anthracis*. Law enforcement transported the sample to CDC's laboratory facilities in Atlanta for further testing.

Preliminary CDC laboratory results are as follows:

- PCR: Negative
- Culture: No growth at 12 hours

Definitive results are pending culture status at 24 hours (approximately 09:30 PM EST, February 23, 2002). When these results are available, another Health Alert message will be issued.

*The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) protects people's health and safety by preventing and controlling diseases and injuries; enhances health decisions by providing credible information on critical health issues; and promotes healthy living through strong partnerships with local, national and international organizations.*

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**