

# **This is an official** **CDC Health Advisory**

Distributed via Health Alert Network  
February 07, 2003, 19:52 EDT (7:52 PM EDT)  
CDCHAN-000112-03-02-07-ADV-N

## National Terrorism Threat Level Increase

Today Jerome Hauer, Acting Assistant Secretary for Public Health and Emergency Preparedness, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), briefed the nation's state public health officials about the rationale for increasing the national threat condition for risk of terrorism attack. Based on information received and analyzed by the federal intelligence community, the national threat level was raised from elevated risk ("yellow") to high risk ("orange"). Mr. Hauer warned public health officials of increased domestic threats against U.S. citizens. Specific threat agents cited include botulism and ricin toxins, cyanide, VX and sarin nerve agents, and radiological dispersion devices ("dirty bombs").

HHS and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are providing this information to assist the public health community in increasing their level of preparedness for these threat agents.

Information on threat agents is available at the CDC website ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)).

Additional materials will be posted at the following sites in the coming days.

Botulism information: <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/botulism/>

Cyanide information: <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/lung/Cyanide>

Radiation Emergency Response information:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/radiation/response.htm>

Radiation facts for 1<sup>st</sup> Responders and Physicians:

[http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/radiation/fr\\_physicians.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/radiation/fr_physicians.htm)

Ricin information: <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/ricin/>

Sarin information: <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/Nerve/Sarin>

VX information: <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/Nerve/VX>

General information about the health effects of terrorism threat agents is available at <http://www.bt.cdc.gov> and <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov>

For questions, technical assistance, or to report an event, please call the CDC Emergency Operations Center at 770-488-7100. More information will be provided once additional details are known.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

**Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

=====

You have received this message based upon the information contained within our emergency notification data base. If you have a different or additional e-mail or fax address that you would like us to use please notify us as soon as possible by e-mail at [healthalert@cdc.gov](mailto:healthalert@cdc.gov).

=====