



## Health Alert Network

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# This is an official CDC HEALTH UPDATE

Distributed via Health Alert Network  
Monday, March 25, 2002, 17:50 EST (5:50 PM EST)  
CDCHAN-00083-2002-03-25-UPD-N

## Investigation of a Suspect Case of Cutaneous Anthrax in a Laboratory Worker

On March 6, 2002, a Texas laboratory worker who recently handled environmental specimens for analysis for *Bacillus anthracis* from buildings contaminated during last fall's anthrax attacks was identified with a suspect case of cutaneous anthrax. The worker had not been immunized with anthrax vaccine. CDC received a request for a Health Hazard Evaluation (HHE) at this laboratory and is currently conducting an investigation of the laboratory and work practices among the employees. CDC believes that this suspect case of cutaneous anthrax in a laboratory processing anthrax specimens does not pose a health risk to the public. Laboratories involved in anthrax diagnostics and research should use a proven sporicidal agent, such as freshly made (within 1 week) 10% bleach, as a primary disinfectant. CDC will provide further information about findings and recommendations from the HHE once it is completed.

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.

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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).

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This page last reviewed: November 10, 2003

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