

APPENDIX A. ANTHRAX POLL QUESTIONS

This document includes the complete text of substantive questions asked in the poll, including those not presented with the data, so that the full context of the questions can be seen. Descriptions of skips patterns or question rotations (to prevent order bias) are presented in italics.

Concern Knowledge About Anthrax

- Q1. To begin, how concerned are you that there will be a terrorist attack in the United States in the next 12 months? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not at all concerned?
- Q2. More specifically, in the next 12 months, how concerned are you that there may be an attack that involves spreading anthrax purposefully, which is a kind of bioterrorist attack? *[Read: Very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not at all concerned]*
- Q3. How familiar are you with the term “inhalation anthrax”? Would you say you are very familiar, somewhat familiar, not very familiar, or not at all familiar? *[Ask if very/somewhat/not very familiar with term “inhalation anthrax”]*
- Q4. To the best of your knowledge, is inhalation anthrax contagious—meaning that it can be passed from one person to another—or is it not contagious?

Scenario Part 1

I’d like to ask you some questions about a made-up or fictional situation involving a bioterrorist attack using anthrax. I want to reassure you that I do not have any information that a real attack is planned. Information from this poll will be used by public health officials for the purposes of planning and preparedness.

Suppose for a minute you saw or read in the news that a number of people in your city or town have become ill with what investigators believe is “inhalation anthrax,” which is a kind of anthrax people get through the nose or mouth. All of these people are seriously ill, and some have died. Investigators suspect that there has been a bioterrorist attack in your city or town. They believe that many more people have been exposed to the anthrax, but they do not yet know exactly where in the city or town the anthrax was released.

- Q5. Just based on the information that I have provided here, how worried would you be that you would become seriously ill or die in this situation? *[Read: Very worried, somewhat worried, not very worried, or not at all worried]*
- Q6. If it turned out that you were exposed to the anthrax and you did not get any medical treatment, how likely do you think it is that you would become seriously ill or even die? *[Read: Very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely]*

Medicine and Points of Dispensing (PODs)

Suppose that you saw or read in the news that people who were truly exposed to anthrax would be very likely to get seriously ill or even die if they did not receive medicine within 48 hours, and that your local or state public health agency was making free medicine available to everyone in your city or town who wanted it.

Everyone would be offered a 10-day supply of commonly used antibiotic pills. Public health officials would say that the antibiotic pills would have few side effects for most people; most commonly, these would be mild stomach illnesses. Public health officials would also inform people that there would be special medicine available for anyone who had allergies to antibiotics and that there would be medicine available in the right amount for children.

- Q7. If you heard or saw this information in the news, how safe would you believe these antibiotic pills would be for you to take? Would you say very safe, somewhat safe, not very safe, or not at all safe?
- Q8. If you heard or saw this information in the news, how effective would you believe these antibiotic pills would be in preventing you from getting seriously ill or dying? Would you say very effective, somewhat effective, not very effective, or not at all effective?

Now imagine that public health officials stated that there will be enough of these antibiotics available for everyone in your town or city. In order to get the antibiotic pills to everyone within 48 hours, federal public health agencies would deliver the medication to your local or state public health agency. Your local or state public health agency would then set up dispensing sites in places like schools, community centers, or shopping centers around your city or town.

- Q9. If you heard or saw this information in the news, how confident would you be that there would be a sufficient supply of the antibiotic pills for everyone in your city or town who wanted them? Are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?
- Q10. How confident are you that federal public health agencies will be able to deliver these antibiotic pills in time to your local or state public health agency? Are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?
- Q11. How confident are you that your local or state public health agency would be effective in getting these antibiotic pills to everyone in your city or town who wanted them? Are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

Public health officials would say that there would be a dispensing site no more than 20 minutes away from where you live or work, and it would be open 24 hours a day. They would also say that everyone would be able to pick up medicine for people in their household or family.

Some people would go to a dispensing site within 48 hours and other people may have reasons why they would not be able or would not want to go. Thinking about yourself in this situation ...

- Q12. How likely would you be to go to a dispensing site within 48 hours in order to get these antibiotic pills for yourself? *[Read: Very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely]*

[Ask if very/somewhat likely to go to dispensing site for self, and is a parent]

- Q13. How likely would you be to go get these antibiotic pills for your child(ren)? *[Read: Very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely]*

[Ask if not very/not at all likely to go to dispensing site for self, and is a parent]

- Q14. How likely would you be to go to a dispensing site within 48 hours in order to get these antibiotic pills for your child(ren)? *[Read: Very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely]*

[Next sequence asked (Q16 through Q18) if not very/not at all likely to get pills for self, don't know, refused, or if somewhat/not very/not at all likely to get pills for child/children]

I am going to read you a list of possible reasons why some people might not go to a dispensing site to get the antibiotic pills (for themselves/for themselves or for their children/for their children).

[Rotate Q16 through Q18]

Some people might not go because of reasons related to the medicine itself.

- Q15. Please tell me whether each of these factors would be a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason at all that you would not be very likely go to the dispensing site. How about *[insert]*? *[Scramble list in insert]*
- I would be worried about the safety of the antibiotic pills, including side effects from taking them.
 - I don't think the antibiotic pills would be effective in preventing people from getting sick with anthrax.
 - I would be worried about having an allergic reaction to the pills.
 - I would worry that there would not be enough antibiotic pills at the dispensing site for everyone who wants them.

Some people might not go to the dispensing site because of reasons related to traveling or waiting there.

- Q16. Please tell me whether each of these factors would be a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason at all that you would not be very likely go to the dispensing site. How about *[insert]*? *[Scramble list in insert]*
- It would be difficult to get to the dispensing site and back home.
 - I would worry about getting exposed to anthrax from other people who were sick with it at the dispensing site.
 - I would worry about getting exposed to anthrax that might still be in buildings, public transportation, or on people at the dispensing site.
 - I would worry about a second anthrax attack occurring while I went to the dispensing site.
 - I would worry that public health officials will not be able to control the crowds of people waiting for the antibiotic pills at the dispensing site.

Some people may have (other/various) reasons that they might not go to the dispensing site.

- Q17. Please tell me whether each of these factors would be a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason at all that you would not be very likely go to the dispensing site. How about *[insert]? [Scramble list in insert]*
- a. I would wait to get the antibiotic pills until after I knew for sure that (I/my child or I/my children) had been exposed to anthrax.
 - b. I think there would be no need to go because the government would likely be overblowing the situation.
 - c. I don't think (I/my child or I/my children) would be likely to get sick from anthrax.
 - d. I believe I would be able to get the antibiotic pills from my doctor or someone else instead of going to the dispensing site.
- Q18. Assuming you did go to the site, I'd like to ask you about the 10-day supply of antibiotic pills you would receive for yourself. Would you be most likely to *[insert]? [Read: Start taking the pills right away, or not take the pills right away, but hold on to them for later.]*

[Ask of parents]

- Q19. Now thinking about the 10-day supply of antibiotic pills you receive for your child(ren): Would you be most likely to: *[Read: Start giving the pills to your children right away, or not give your child(ren) the pills right away, but hold on to them for later.]*

[Ask of parents]

- Q20. Please tell me whether each of these reasons would be a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason at all that you would [hold on to the pills and not take them/hold on to the pills and not take them or give them to your child(ren)/give them to your child(ren) right away]. How about *[insert]? Is this a...? [Scramble list in insert]*
- a. I would only use the pills if [I/my (child/ren) or I/my (child/ren)] had symptoms of inhalation anthrax.
 - b. I would only use the pills if I knew where the anthrax was released and that [I/my (child/ren)/my (child/ren) or I] had been in that area.
 - c. I would want to hold onto the pills in case there was another anthrax attack.

Postal Service

In the situation I described, there might be another way for people to get at least the first doses of the antibiotic pills. In certain areas, the federal government could deliver antibiotic pills to the US Postal Service, who would have postal workers deliver antibiotic pills directly to households within 48 hours.

The postal worker who delivered pills to each household might not be the regular delivery person for that household, because only postal workers who volunteered would be part of the process. Postal workers would be accompanied by local law enforcement officials.

- Q21. How confident are you that the US Postal Service would be effective in getting these antibiotic pills to pre-selected areas of your city or town using this system? Are you—*[Read: Very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?]*

If this were to happen, each household would receive a single bottle of antibiotics with enough pills for the first 48 hours. When the household needed more pills, a household member would be able to go to a dispensing site to get more. If that person had already been taking the pills when they went to the dispensing site, they would have some protection against getting sick.

The postal service would deliver the same kind of antibiotic pills to every household within the pre-selected areas. There would be no exchanges for people who had allergies to one kind of antibiotic, and there would be no liquid version available for children or adults with difficulty swallowing. People with need for these things would have to go to a dispensing site.

Each bottle would come with a single, double-sided page of information about the pills. More information would be available on official websites.

- Q22. Suppose you saw or heard in the news that your house was in an area where the postal service planned to deliver antibiotic pills. Would you wait for the postal service to deliver antibiotic pills and only go to a dispensing site if or when you ran out of the pills, or not wait for the postal service to deliver antibiotic pills and go to the dispensing site as soon as you were able, or wouldn't you do either? *[Rotate]*
- Q23. Please tell me whether each of these reasons would be a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason at all that you would not wait for the postal service to deliver antibiotic pills. How about *[insert]? [Scramble list in insert]*

- a. I would be concerned about not being able to exchange the standard antibiotic pills because I may have allergies to them or may need a liquid form.
- b. I would not be confident that the postal service would deliver the pills.
- c. I would worry that the pills from the postal service would not be as safe as the antibiotic pills available at the dispensing sites.
- d. I would worry that the pills from the postal service would not be as effective as the antibiotic pills available at the dispensing sites.
- e. I would want to go the dispensing site in order to talk to someone about questions I might have about the antibiotic pills.
- f. I would think I could get the antibiotic pills faster if I went to the dispensing site.

Turning to Resources for Information about PODs

- Q24. In order to get the basic information you needed about the dispensing sites, the postal delivery system, or the process of getting the antibiotic pills, how likely would you be to turn to each of the following sources? How about *[insert]*? *[Scramble list in insert]* *[Read: Very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, not at all likely]*
- a. Local TV news
 - b. City hall, either by telephone or their website
 - c. Police department, either by telephone or their website
 - d. Local newspapers
 - e. Local radio
 - f. Local or state public health department, either by telephone or their website
 - g. The US Postal Service, either by telephone or their website
 - h. Social media websites, like Facebook, blogs, discussion boards, or Twitter