



ANDREW J SPANO
County Executive

Joshua Lipsman, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner, Department of Health

ATTENTION

Public Health

Update

The Westchester County Department of Health provides public health updates to members of the medical community on important issues affecting public health in Westchester

September 12, 2001

**ALERT: Terrorist Attack at the World Trade Center in New York City:
Medical and Public Health Issues of Concern**

Dear Infection Control Practitioners, Infectious Disease Physicians, Emergency Department Directors, Medical Directors, and Laboratory Directors:

We are sending this broadcast alert in response to the tragic terrorist attack at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. We want to alert you to the following issues:

There is Currently No Evidence of a Biological, Radiological or Chemical Attack:

The Westchester County Department of Health has received no information suggesting that a biological, radiological, or chemical terrorist attack has occurred in New York City or the surrounding region. There is currently NO evidence that there were any chemical or biological agents on the planes. Moreover, biological or chemical agents would not likely have survived an explosion of that magnitude. Therefore, at this time, we are NOT recommending antibiotic prophylaxis for residents or visitors to New York City and the surrounding region.

However, we do request that you be especially alert to ANY unusual disease issues over the next three weeks. Urgent health issues for which we would want to be notified immediately include:

- 1. Any unusual increase or clustering in patients presenting with clinical symptoms that suggest an infectious disease outbreak (e.g., ≥ 2 patients presenting with unexplained pneumonia, respiratory failure or sepsis- especially if occurring in persons who are otherwise healthy. In addition, please notify us regarding a sudden increase in flu-like symptoms).**
- 2. A suspect case of any of the following infectious diseases:**

**Anthrax
Botulism**

**Brucellosis
Plague**

**Q Fever
Smallpox**

Tularemia

Please report any patients with these suspected illnesses or conditions immediately to the Westchester County Department of Health at :

(914) 813-5159 Monday - Friday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM or

(914) 813-5000 24 hours/7 days

Thank you for your assistance in these matters.

Sincerely,

Amy S. Rosenberg

Ada J. Huang

Amy S. Rosenberg, M.D.
Director, TB & Communicable Diseases

Ada J. Huang, M.D.
Deputy Commissioner, Disease Control

