



# **How Ready Are We for Bioterrorism?: *A Case Study***

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GPH-GH 5270: Management of Public Health Disasters

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# POST 9/11 AMERICA



<https://www.bu.edu/articles/2021/how-9-11-changed-the-world/>

- Vulnerable
- Fear
- Government
- Physical Health
- Mental Health
- Economic Loss



## 31 Exposed to Anthrax on Capitol Hill; House Shuts Down; Senate Offices Close

U.S. Seeks to Boost Security, Soothe Public

By ERIK PETERSEN  
 and JAMES HANCOCK  
 Washington Post Staff Writers

Confused by a mounting anthrax scare in Washington and New York, the federal government yesterday took steps to stave the spread of misinformation, increase homeland security and reassure a rattled public.

The Bush administration asked Congress for \$1.5 billion to stockpile emergency medicines, including 500 million doses of antibiotics, enough to inoculate every American against a potential terrorist weapon considered even more lethal than anthrax. The money would also expand the capacity of health laboratories to deal with anthrax and pay for hiring hundreds of food inspectors to guard against tainted meat and poultry.

The Federal Aviation Administration announced that it will require critical backbone stocks on all



Senate Majority leader Thomas Daschle, right, and Minority Leader Trent Lott hold a news conference at the Capitol.

Investigators See Tie in Letters In Fla., NBC and Daschle Cases

By JOSE LASCARAS  
 and SUSAN SCHEMME  
 Washington Post Staff Writers

The House suspended work and three Senate office buildings were closed yesterday as congressional leaders announced that 25 Senate staffers and five police officers had been exposed to anthrax spores that arrived in the office mail of Senate Majority Leader Thomas A. Daschle (D-S.D.) on Monday.

Almost simultaneously, New York Gov. George E. Pataki (R) added to the sense of national anxiety and confusion when he announced that anthrax microbes had been detected in his Manhattan office. Pataki and his staff began taking the antibiotic Cipro as a precaution.

The disclosures came amid growing evidence of connections between the anthrax sent to Daschle's office and similar episodes involving NBC News in New York and Florida school publisher American Media Inc. (Details at the Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta said yesterday that preliminary testing indicates the strains of anthrax that infected workers at the Florida firm, killing one, is almost identical to the strain that arrived in a letter sent to NBC.

FBI officials previously disclosed that the letters sent to Daschle's office and NBC here Thursday, Oct. 11, postmarks, were written in similar block letters and contained similar references to Allah, as well as writings that anthrax was involved.

Looking to calm public fears, officials emphasized yesterday that the anthrax sent to Daschle's office is a common strain that responds readily to antibiotics that they can recommend suspicious, first outlined on Tuesday, that the anthrax powder may have been produced in a sophisticated manner, so that it waits easily through the air.

There's been some attempt to collect it, perhaps remove it, and per-

See ANTHRAX, A12, C4, 7



# FACTS ABOUT THE CASE

- Retired Air Force colonel Randall Larsen was able to smuggle small test tube into the White House: weaponized powder of Bacillus globigii.
- What does a biological weapon look like?
- Anthrax letters: Reevaluate what a biological attack might look like.



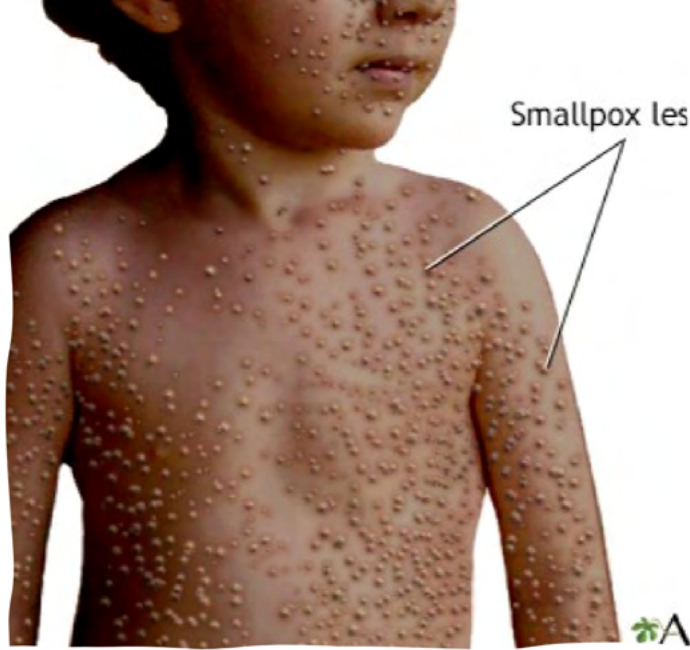
# EBOLA: WHAT IS IT?

ly, hemorrhagic  
resulting in a  
al infection  
the body.



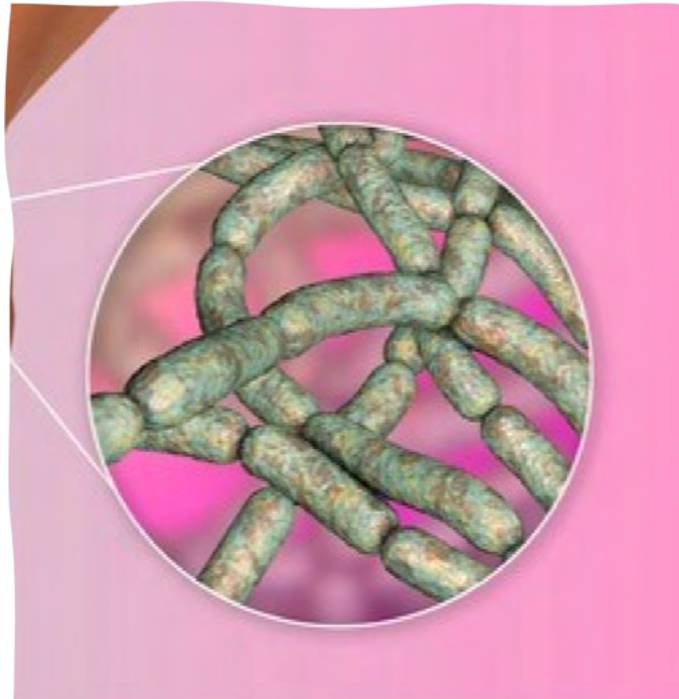
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inhabiting Wes  
forests are nat  
for the virus.

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early every  
n the body.



## EPIDEMIOLOGICAL ASPECTS

- Department of Homeland Security identifies the most important pathogens:
  - Smallpox
  - Anthrax
  - Ebola
  - Plague/lesser-known organisms.
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- Weaponizing Ebola (concern due to its rapid spread.
  - Biological attack option: recruit individuals for Ebola suicide missions.





# VAXGEN



## Management of Event

### Program:

- BioSheild
- VaxGen
- Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authorities (Barda)

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- Creating Vaccines
  - Stockpile Vaccines
  - Countermeasures





## Take Away

- Lack of urgency
- ill prepared
- Individual government official should spearhead biodefence



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