

Kanawha Putnam Emergency Management Plan Hazard Identification Annex	
Biological Incidents Revised September 2022: Reviewed Biennially	B03
Risk Moderate	Vulnerability Low

I. Introduction

This section of the All-Hazard Plan entails the plans of emergency and response organizations to specific emergency risks and disaster such as Bioterrorism. While the causes of emergencies vary greatly, the effects of emergencies do not. Many of the same tasks apply to multiple types of emergencies and disasters. This Plan can incorporate all potential hazards and provide a consistent set of core responses.

A. Purpose

The purpose of the biological event annex is to establish methods and procedures to be used in emergency planning to response to public health emergencies and incidents of biological terrorism (bioterrorism).

B. Scope of Work

The scope of this annex encompasses aspects of preparedness, active investigation, emergency response, recovery, and maintenance during a public health emergency/biological event occurring in the communities of Kanawha and Putnam Counties.

II. Situation and Assumptions

Today biological terrorism and other public health emergencies could threaten the safety and health of the citizens of Kanawha and Putnam counties. The goal is to minimize the impact of adverse events on the population.

Deliberate release of a biological agent may be either overt or covert. Overt, or the open spread of a biological agent would most likely cause immediate concern, triggering rapid efforts to identify the agent and to initiate appropriate response.

Covert, or the hidden use of these agents, will delay recognition and response time. Either scenario can result in large scale impacts that can quickly overwhelm the public health and medical care community. Detection, response and disease control of an infectious disease outbreak is most likely to occur locally, but it will be necessary to collaborate with the state and other community partners to effectively coordinate all response efforts.

- A. The Kanawha-Charleston and Putnam County Health Departments are responsible for the protection of the health and welfare of the citizens within its jurisdiction.
- B. A public health emergency may involve as few as one and as many as thousands of exposed or infected individuals.
- C. The use of a biologic agent may only be apparent days or weeks after release.
- D. A bioterrorism incident is a multi-disciplinary, multi-jurisdictional event that will require interagency planning and response approaches as well as cooperative partnerships between local, state and federal governments.
- E. Upon discovering the use of a bioterrorism agent, the event automatically becomes a criminal investigation under the jurisdiction of the FBI.
- F. The community response to a public health emergency is likely to be associated with high levels of anxiety, fear and hysteria.
- G. Hospital capacity is limited

III. Functional Annex Components

- A. Primary Functional Annexes - include, but are not limited to:
 - 1. A01 - Public Warning
 - 2. A02 - Emergency Public Information
 - 3. A03 – Communications
 - 4. A08 - Health and Medical
 - 5. A17 - Biological Response

B. Support Functional Annexes may be used in addition to Primary Functional Annexes

1. A07 - Mass Care
2. A12 - Special Needs Population
3. A14 - Law Enforcement & Security
4. A15 - Resource Management
5. A16 – Hazardous Material
6. A20 – Terrorism
7. A23 - Volunteer Response