

Questions & Answers

Q. How were employees notified?

A. Employees in the Pentagon remote mail facility (RDF) were notified and were briefed by DoD officials. Other personnel who may have come in contact with the mail were and are being contacted and are also being briefed.

Q. Are personnel being quarantined?

A. No.

Q. Do personnel pose a threat to family members?

A. No, this poses no threat of being passed on from one person to the next.

Q. How many personnel are potentially affected?

A. Approximately 175 people work in and around the mail facility. Additionally, approximately 100 other personnel may have come in contact with the mail in the delivery process.

Q. What medical protocols are being followed? What medical facility is providing support?

A. All personnel who may have come into contact with the mail have been or are being contacted. They are being asked to provide nasal swabs for culture & they are being provided with a 3-day regimen of antibiotics.

Q. What are the symptoms that people should be looking for?

A. Initial symptoms are fever, sweats, chills. However, the typical onset of symptoms does not take place for several days.

Q. What should personnel do if they think that they might have come in contact with mail handled at the facility (if they haven't already been seen by a health care professional?)

A. They should contact the occupational health care personnel at the Di Lorenzo Clinic.

Q. Are you working with local and federal officials?

A. Yes, we are working closely with Arlington County officials, and they have been on site with us all day. We have also been working with the Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the U.S. Postal Service.

Q. Where are the follow on tests being conducted?

A. The confirmatory tests are being conducted at the U.S. Army Research Institute for Infectious Diseases at Ft. Detrick, and results are expected within 48-72 hours.

Q. Will everybody be contacted regarding their individual test?

A. Any positive tests will be reported, and the personnel will be contacted.

Q. Have there been any other positive results?

A. No, there are have been no other positive tests in the Pentagon. However, there was a preliminary positive result from a satellite facility. It is important to note that the mail reaching the Pentagon and this facility had already been irradiated. It is likely that even if the anthrax had been killed, the initial indication might still be positive.