

# Public health response to biological and chemical weapons

## WHO guidance

SECOND EDITION



World Health Organization

Prepublication Issue

# Public health response to biological and chemical weapons –WHO guidance–

Projected second edition of  
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*Please note that this text is still subject to revision.*

**Table 3.1**  
**Biological agents variously cited as possible weapons for use against humans**

Biological agent and WHO numeric code for the disease <sup>a</sup> it can cause	United Nations <sup>b</sup> (1969)	WHO <sup>c</sup> (1970)	BWC <sup>d</sup> CBM-F (1992)	Australia Group <sup>e</sup> (1992)	NATO <sup>f</sup> (1996)	APHA <sup>g</sup> (2000)	BWC <sup>h</sup> draft Protocol (2001)
<b>BACTERIA</b> (including RICKETTSIA and CHLAMYDIA)							
<i>Bacillus anthracis</i> , A22 (anthrax)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Bartonella quintana</i> , A79.0 (trench fever)				X			
<i>Brucella</i> species, A23 (brucellosis)	X	X	X	X	X		X
<i>Burkholderia mallei</i> , A24.0 (glanders)	X	X	X	X			X
<i>Burkholderia pseudomallei</i> , A24 (melioidosis)	X	X	X	X	X		X
<i>Franciscella tularensis</i> , A21 (tularemia)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Salmonella typhi</i> , A01.0 (typhoid fever)	X	X		X	X		
<i>Shigella</i> species, A03 (shigellosis)	X				X		
<i>Vibrio cholerae</i> , A00 (cholera)	X	X		X	X		
<i>Yersinia pestis</i> , A20 (plague)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Coxiella burnetii</i> , A78 (Q fever)	X	X	X	X	X		X
<i>Orientia tsutsugamushi</i> , A75.3 (scrub typhus)					X		
<i>Rickettsia prowazekii</i> , A75 (typhus fever)	X	X	X	X	X		X
<i>Rickettsia rickettsii</i> , A77.0 (Rocky Mountain spotted fever)	X	X		X	X		X
<i>Chlamydia psittaci</i> , A70 (psittacosis)	X				X		

Biological agent and WHO numeric code for the disease <sup>a</sup> it can cause	United Nations <sup>b</sup> (1969)	WHO <sup>c</sup> (1970)	BWC <sup>d</sup> CBM-F (1992)	Australia Group <sup>e</sup> (1992)	NATO <sup>f</sup> (1996)	APHA <sup>g</sup> (2000)	BWC <sup>h</sup> draft Protocol (2001)
<b>FUNGI</b>							
<i>Coccidioides immitis</i> , B38 (coccidioidomycosis)	X	X			X	X	
<i>Histoplasma capsulatum</i> , B39.4 (histoplasmosis)							
<b>VIRUSES</b>							
Hantaan/Korean haemorrhagic fever, etc, A98.5		X		X	X		
Sin nombre, J12.8							X
Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever, A98.0		X		X	X		X
Rift Valley fever, A92.4		X		X	X		X
Ebola virus disease, A98.3				X	X		X
Marburg virus disease, A98.4		X		X			X
Lymphocytic choriomeningitis, A87.2				X			
Junin, A96.0 (Argentine haemorrhagic fever)				X	X		X
Machupo, A96.1 (Bolivian haemorrhagic fever)				X	X		X
Lassa fever, A96.2				X	X		X
Tick-borne encephalitis/Russian spring-summer encephalitis, A84.0/ A84	X	X		X	X		X
Dengue, A90/91	X	X		X	X		
Yellow fever, A95	X	X		X	X		X
Omsk haemorrhagic fever, A98.1					X		
Japanese encephalitis, A83.0		X		X			

Biological agent and WHO numeric code for the disease <sup>a</sup> it can cause	United Nations <sup>b</sup> (1969)	WHO <sup>c</sup> (1970)	BWC <sup>d</sup> CBM-F (1992)	Australia Group <sup>e</sup> (1992)	NATO <sup>f</sup> (1996)	APHA <sup>g</sup> (2000)	BWC <sup>h</sup> draft Protocol (2001)
Western equine encephalomyelitis, A83.1		X		X			X
Eastern equine encephalomyelitis, A83.2	X	X		X	X		X
Chikungunya, A92.0	X	X		X	X		
O'nyong-nyong, A92.1		X					
Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis, A92.2	X	X	X	X	X		X
Variola major, B03 (smallpox)	X	X		X	X	X	X
Monkey pox, B04				X			X
White pox (a variant of variola virus)				X			
Influenza, J10.11	X	X			X		
<b>PROTOZOA</b>							
<i>Naegleria fowleri</i> , B60.2 (naegleriasis)							X
<i>Toxoplasma gondii</i> , B58 (toxoplasmosis)		X					
<i>Schistosoma</i> species, B65 (schistosomiasis)		X					

### Notes

<sup>a</sup> Diseases are identified by the numeric code assigned by the *International classification of diseases, tenth revision (ICD-10)*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 1994.

<sup>b</sup> *Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons and the effects of their possible use: report of the Secretary-General*. New York, United Nations, 1969.

<sup>c</sup> *Health aspects of chemical and biological weapons: report of a WHO group of consultants*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 1970.

<sup>d</sup> United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs, compilation of declarations of information by BWC States Parties in accordance with the extended confidence- building measures agreed at the Third Review Conference, DDA/4-92/BW3 plus Add.1, Add.2 and Add.3: data from Section 2, *Past offensive biological R&D programmes*, of the Form F as filed by Canada, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States, 1992.

<sup>e</sup> Australia Group document AG/Dec92/BW/Chair/30 dated June 1992.

<sup>f</sup> *NATO handbook on the medical aspects of NBC defensive operations*, AmedP-6(B), Part II – Biological, Brussels, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, 1996.

<sup>g</sup> Chin J, ed. *Control of communicable diseases manual*, 17<sup>th</sup> edition, Washington, DC, American Public Health Association, 2000.

<sup>h</sup> Ad Hoc Group of the States Parties of the Convention on the Prohibition, Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction, document BWC/AD HOC GROUP/56-2, at pp 465-466, which is in Annex A of the Chairman's Composite Text for the BWC Protocol, 2001.