

Anthrax Information Sheet - (No Preventative Treatment)

(Updated 01/09/02)

Based on current CDC and Department of Health guidelines, your physician has determined that you have not been exposed to anthrax. We are therefore following public health recommendations and neither prescribing antibiotics nor taking a nasal swab. If additional public information becomes available that indicates that you were exposed to anthrax, please seek further medical care as soon as possible.

We are not performing a nasal swab because this procedure has only been used in recent investigations in the District of Columbia, Florida, and NY to determine the extent and source of the exposure. These tests are not helpful in determining which patient need antibiotic therapy.

Despite our determination that current data indicate that you were not exposed, it is always wise to be vigilant for the symptoms of inhalation anthrax. You should go to the Emergency Department if you experience any shortness of breath, fever/chills, severe muscle aches, nausea, vomiting or abdominal cramps, or new or concerning health problems. Skin infection with anthrax develops over days to weeks. It starts with a red spot, then raised bump, followed by formation of a blister which eventually turns black in the center.

For more information on anthrax and current guidelines, see the following websites: CDC website at www.bt.cdc.gov/; Stanford University Medical Centers website at www.bioterrorism.stanfordhospital.com/; or Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Website at www.bioterrorism.lpch.org/; or Santa Clara County Public Health Department at www.sccphd.org/

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