

Responding to Anthrax Threats (Letters, Packages, etc.)

(Updated 12/08/01)

Please see October 22, 2001 recommendations from Santa Clara County Public Health Department (SCCPHD) titled, [Alleged Anthrax Exposure: Guidelines for Physicians](#).

Physicians in the community should refrain from referring well patients to the Stanford Emergency Department for evaluation after an alleged biohazard exposure. They should follow the guidelines outlined by Santa Clara County.

In addition to the SCCPHD Guidelines, the following protocol is recommended for dealing with a suspicious package or letter discovered at Stanford University Medical Center:

- Do not open the letter.
- If the letter has already been opened and powder spills out, do not clean it up. Keep others away from the area.
- Put the letter down and leave the room.
- Immediately wash your hands with soap and water.
- Notify your supervisor, hospital security and local law enforcement officials (call 911).
- Page the Hospital Hazmat Team by calling Security and asking that the team be paged to your number. Hazmat Team members include: Per Schenk, Jim Schweikherd, and Mirna Citron. The direct pager is 16800.
- Evacuate the area.
- Ensure that all persons who have handled the letter wash their hands.
- Start a list of names and telephone numbers of all persons who have handled the letter.

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