

CODE ZEBRA GUIDELINES

(Updated 5/25/02)

A Code Zebra is Stanford University Medical Center's internal page/phone initiated bioterrorism/infectious diseases alert system that brings together key players to decide how best to manage such a bioterrorism/infectious disease event.

The name Code Zebra was taken from the Santa Clara County Health Department Bioterrorism Zebra Packet issued in 1999.

The following is an outline of actions that will occur upon a Code Zebra Activation:

The following persons are authorized to activate a Code Zebra:

1. Infectious Disease Attending
2. Emergency Department Attending
3. Emergency Department Nurse Manager or Resource Nurse
4. Chief of Medical Staff
5. Administrator on Call

A Code Zebra should be activated under the following situations:

1. Whenever the number of patients arriving to the emergency department from a Bioterrorism incident exceeds the staff's ability to care for these patients with resources in place at that time.*
2. If any suspicious cluster of infections is noted at Stanford University Medical Center (SUMC), not necessarily limited to bioterrorism agents.
3. If the Center for Disease Control and Prevention confirms the diagnosis of the first case of smallpox at SUMC.
4. If community-wide public health bioterrorism/infectious diseases alerts are announced that may affect SUMC.

*A Code Triage may be activated in addition to a Code Zebra if the number of patients presenting to the ED warrant a Code Triage Response. Telecommunications shall complete the Code Zebra first and then call a Code Triage if ordered to do so.

Upon requesting a Code Zebra, the authorized person shall call 211, state who they are, indicate that they want a Code Zebra activated, and provide a callback number. The person should then notify the Santa Clara Public Health Department.

By activating a Code Zebra, telecommunications notifications via telephone and/or alphanumeric pager will be made to the team of Code Zebra responders informing them of the Code Zebra alert. Code Zebra responders should report to Radiology East. There will be no further telecommunication interactions after the Code Zebra responders have been notified of the Code Zebra. There is no overhead page for a Code Zebra. There are no overhead pages or other notification needed to clear a Code Zebra. There are no Code Zebra drill procedures.