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Evaluate biohazard threat using criteria below.

**Call Wadsworth Center Biodefense Laboratory at (518) 474-4177 to help in assessment as criteria may change after an event.**

These questions are meant to help evaluators make

decisions on-site. **Evaluators should use their**

**professional judgment to collect and submit samples**

**for laboratory testing.**

### CREDIBLE BIOHAZARD CRITERIA

1) Was there a **THREAT?**

2) Was there **VISIBLE MATERIAL?**

3) Was there an **UNCERTAIN ORIGIN?**

4) Was there an **EXPOSURE?**

**RESULT A:** Answer is YES to Criterion 1 (regardless of others).

**Potential crime.** Collect and treat sample as evidence for

criminal prosecution. Discuss need and priority for laboratory

testing with LRN laboratory.

**RESULT B:** Answer is YES to Criteria 1, 2, 3, 4.

**Potential biohazard and crime.** Collect and treat sample as evidence for criminal prosecution. Submit to lab.

**RESULT C:** Sample does not meet Result A or B criteria. Treat as nuisance material. Collect and dispose of according to local SOP.

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### BIOTHREAT RESPONSE

#### Control Scene

Restrict access, contain area, minimize airflow around specimen, record names and contact information of people in area, who may have been exposed.

#### Open Dialog

Call appropriate law enforcement, Wadsworth Center or nearest Laboratory Response Network testing lab, and local health lab (page 2).

#### Determine Biohazard Credibility

In collaboration with above groups, evaluate using Credible Biohazard Criteria (page 4).

#### Employ Collection Protocol

Gather collection material (page 2). Follow annotated Collection Protocols (pages 5 through 7) as appropriate.

#### Remove Contamination

Use bleach wipes for solid surfaces and sample containment layers. Remove personal protective equipment (PPE). Wash hands; launder clothes after shift.

#### Enter Information

Fill out Chain of Custody and LRN Biothreat Sample

#### Dispatch Specimen

Coordinate transport, notify LRN lab with estimated time of arrival, dispatch specimen with documentation.

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### REMEMBER:

- Minimize sample handling until sample is contained.
- Minimize dispersal of aerosols.
- All samples must be cleared for explosive devices before submission to LRN laboratories for testing.
- Field Screening for Biological material is NOT recommended.
- Only HAZMAT should open sealed packages or letters.
- Make contact with the nearest LRN testing laboratory.
- Dispose of bleach wipes and waste in red biohazard bag.
- Do not put red bag in sample transport bucket.
- Complete Chain of Custody and Biothreat Tracking forms.

### COLLECTION MATERIALS NEEDED

- 1 Biothreat Collection kit
- 2 pairs of protective gloves PER PERSON
- 1 N95 (or better) respirator PER PERSON

### TESTING LABORATORIES

Wadsworth Center Lab: (518) 474-4177

NYSDOH After Hours: (866) 881-2809

Erie County Lab: (716) 898-6100

Westchester County Lab: (914) 231-1610

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Local Health Dept: \_\_\_\_\_

Please read all sections of this card before initiating sample credibility assessment or biothreat sample collection.

If people on the scene have become ill after exposure, a chemical or biotoxin event is likely. Avoid area and contact Fire/HazMat immediately.

(Not for use in NYC. If you are within NYC jurisdiction, please call the NYC DOHMH at (212)447-1091 for sample collection guidance.)

### LAW ENFORCEMENT

Albany FBI: (518) 465-7551

Buffalo FBI: (716) 856-7800

New York City FBI: (212) 384-1000

Regional HAZMAT: \_\_\_\_\_

Regional NYSF: \_\_\_\_\_

NYSIC: (866) 486-9742

Mandatory Notification: Alert New York State Intelligence Center (NYSIC) at [CIU@nysic.ny.gov](mailto:CIU@nysic.ny.gov)

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## ITEM Collection Procedure

1. Identify two-person collection team and roles (collector or facilitator).
2. Open biothreat collection kit in cold zone and get item collection materials ready.
3. Don appropriate PPE in cold zone.
4. Team will cautiously walk into hot zone with collection materials.
5. Collector will directly place item into ziplock bag held open by facilitator.
6. Facilitator will seal ziplock bag (don't force air out of bag) and decontaminate outside of bag with bleach wipes.
7. Facilitator will place bagged item in second ziplock bag.
8. Facilitator will decontaminate outside of second bag with bleach wipe.
9. Collector and facilitator will remove outer layer of gloves and place them in red biohazard waste bag.
10. Team will proceed to cold zone with contained item and waste bag.
11. Facilitator will place bagged item in hard-sided container and close.
12. Collector will secure access to container with 2 pieces of evidence tape and will sign and date them.
13. Remove remaining PPE and wash hands with soap and water or ethanol-based hand sanitizer.
14. Proceed to enter information on 'Chain of Custody' and 'LRN Tracking' forms.



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## BULK POWDER Protocol

1. Identify two-person collection team and roles (collector or facilitator).
2. Open biothreat collection kit in cold zone and get bulk powder collection materials ready.
3. Don appropriate PPE in cold zone.
4. Team will cautiously walk into hot zone with collection materials.
5. Collector will use laminated card and dry swab to move powder onto one laminated card.
6. Facilitator will hold open collection cup, and collector will place card and powder into cup.
7. Facilitator will seal cup securely.
8. Facilitator will place cup in a ziplock bag.
9. Collector will place swab in tube held by facilitator and snap off tip.
10. Facilitator will seal tube and place in sample bag.
11. Facilitator will seal ziplock bag and decontaminate outside of bag with bleach wipe.
12. OPTIONAL: Repeat collection (steps 5-10), with second card and swab if significant powder remains.
13. Decontaminate residual material on surface for two minutes with bleach wipe.
14. Collector and facilitator will remove outer layer of gloves and place them in red biohazard waste bag.
15. Team will proceed to cold zone with bagged bulk powder samples (cup and swab) and red waste bag.
16. Facilitator will place bagged samples in hard-sided container and close.
17. Collector will secure access to container with two pieces of evidence tape and will sign and date them.
18. Team will remove remaining PPE and wash hands with soap and water or ethanol-based hand sanitizer.
19. Proceed to enter information on 'Chain of Custody' and 'LRN Tracking' forms.

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## STANDARD Collection Protocol

1. Identify two-person collection team and roles (collector or facilitator).
2. Open biothreat collection kit in cold zone and get standard collection materials ready.
3. Don appropriate PPE in cold zone.
4. Pre-wet gauze with one milliliter of water and place in sample cup.
5. Team will cautiously walk into hot zone with collection materials.
6. Collector will use wetted gauze to collect powder using back and forth sweeping motions on surface.
7. Facilitator will hold open collection cup and collector will place gauze swipe into cup.
8. Facilitator will securely seal cup.
9. Facilitator will place cup in a ziplock bag and seal.
10. Facilitator will decontaminate outside of bag with bleach wipe.
11. OPTIONAL: Repeat collection (steps 6-9), with second gauze if needed.
12. Decontaminate residual material on surface for two minutes with bleach wipe.
13. Collector and facilitator will remove outer layer of gloves and place them in red biohazard waste bag.
14. Team will proceed to cold zone with contained material and waste bag.
15. Facilitator will place sample in hard-sided container and close.
16. Collector will secure access to container with two pieces of evidence tape and will sign and date them.
17. Team will remove remaining PPE and wash hands with soap and water or ethanol-based hand sanitizer.
18. Proceed to enter information on 'Chain of Custody' and 'LRN Tracking' forms.

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