

Bioterrorism Agent Clinical Summary

Disease	Virulence factor(s)	Infective dose (ID)	Incubation period	Duration of illness	Person-to-person transmission ^e	Isolation precautions for hospitalized ^f	Persistence of organism
Inhalation anthrax	Exotoxin ^a capsule	Lower limit unknown, ID ₂ estimated at 9 spores ^b	1-6 days	3-5 days	No	Standard	>40 yr
Brucellosis	LPS; ^c PMN survival	10-100 organisms	5-60 days (usually 1-2 mo)	Weeks to months	Via breast milk ^g and sexually ^h (rare)	Standard	Water/soil, ~10 wk
Botulism	Neurotoxin	0.001 µg/kg is LD ₅₀ for type A	6 h to 10 days (usually 1-5 days)	Death in 24-72 h; lasts months if not lethal	No	Standard	Food/water, ~weeks
Glanders	Little studied, possible antiphagocytic capsule	Low	10-14 days via aerosol	Death in 7-10 days in septicemic form	YES (low)	Standard	Very stable
Melioidosis	Possibly LPS, exotoxin, intracellular survival, antiphagocytic capsule	Low	2 days to 26 yr	Days to months	YES (rare) ⁱ	Standard	Very stable in water/soil
Pneumonic plague	V and W antigens LPS (endotoxin) F1 antigen ^d	<100 organisms	2-3 days	1-6 days	YES (high)	Droplet ^f	Soil, up to 1 yr
Q fever	Intracellular survival LPS (endotoxin)	1-10 organisms	10-40 days	~2 wk (acute), months to years (chronic)	Rare ^j	Standard	Very stable
Smallpox		10-100 particles	7-17 days	~4 wk	YES (high)	Airborne ^f	Very stable
Staphylococcal enterotoxin B	Superantigen	0.0004 µg/kg incapacitation; LD ₅₀ is 0.02 µg/kg	3-12 h after inhalation	Hours	No	Standard	Resistant to freezing

Tularemia	Intracellular survival	10-50 organisms	2-10 days	≥2 wk	Single case report during autopsy	Standard	Moist soil, ~months
VHF	Varies with virus	1-10 particles	4-21 days	7-16 days	YES (moderate)	Airborne and contact ^f	Unstable