Appendix 6

Category A and B Biological Agents

Category A Agents

The U.S. public health system and primary healthcare providers must be prepared to address various biological agents, including pathogens that are rarely seen in the United States. High-priority agents include organisms that pose a risk to national security because they can be easily disseminated or transmitted from person to person; result in high mortality rates and have the potential for major public health impact; might cause public panic and social disruption; and require special action for public health preparedness. Category A agents are listed below:

- Anthrax (*Bacillus anthracis*)

- Botulism (*Clostridium botulinum* toxin)

- Plague (*Yersinia pestis*)

- Smallpox (variola major)

- Tularemia (*Francisella tularensis*)

- Viral hemorrhagic fevers (filoviruses [e.g., Ebola, Marburg] and arenaviruses [e.g., Lassa, Machupo])

Category B Agents

The second-highest priority agents include those that are moderately easy to disseminate; result in moderate morbidity rates and low mortality rates; and require specific enhancements of CDC's diagnostic capacity and enhanced disease surveillance. Category B agents are listed below:

- Brucellosis (*Brucella* species)

- Epsilon toxin of *Clostridium perfringens*

- Food safety threats (e.g., *Salmonella* species, *Escherichia coli* O157:H7, *Shigella*)

- Glanders (*Burkholderia mallei*)

- Melioidosis (*Burkholderia pseudomallei*)

- Psittacosis (*Chlamydia psittaci*)

- Q fever (*Coxiella burnetii*)

- Ricin toxin from *Ricinus communis* (castor beans)

- Staphylococcal enterotoxin B

- Typhus fever (*Rickettsia prowazekii*)

- Viral encephalitis (alphaviruses [e.g., Venezuelan equine encephalitis, eastern equine encephalitis, western equine encephalitis])

- Water safety threats (e.g., *Vibrio cholerae*, *Cryptosporidium parvum*)