

Michigan Department of Community Health Guidelines to the General Public for Handling Anthrax Scares or Threats in Letters or Packages

This is intended to clarify what individuals should do at the home or workplace with suspicious letters or packages.

- Do not open the letter or package.
- If the letter or package has already been opened and **powder spills out, do not clean it up.** Keep others away from the area.
- Immediately wash your hands with soap and water.
- Notify your supervisor if at work.
- Notify local law enforcement officials.
- Evacuate the area.
- Local law enforcement officials will, in conjunction with the FBI, do a risk determination and contact the state health department.
- Place all clothing items that had direct contact with powder from the letter or package into plastic bags. Keep these bags open, so that the clothers are available for law enforcement officials to examine.
- Ensure that all persons who have handled the letter or package wash their hands.
- Start a list of names, addresses and telephone numbers of all persons who have handled the letter or package. Share that list with law enforcement officials if requested.
- As soon as possible shower with soap and water.
- Do not go to a clinic or emergency room unless you have illness serious enough that it would prompt such a visit under usual circumstances.
- If you do have contact with health care providers, do not request testing for anthrax (e.g., a nasal swab culture) or treatment for anthrax (e.g., ciprofloxacin or other antibiotic) unless directed to do so by local and/or state public health officials.

Be assured that the risk of actual exposure to anthrax through contact with a letter or package is extremely low.

Please be patient. Public safety and health officials will respond as quickly as possible.