

Bioterrorism

Psychological and Public Health Interventions

After the sarin gas attack on the Tokyo subway system in 1995 just 12 people died but more than 5000 sought medical care for possible exposure. Bacteria, viruses, prions, and gases can create chaos and disruption on a national and international scale. Moreover, bioterrorism is believed to incur the most devastating psychological sequelae of all disasters and terrorist events.

Planning and pre-disaster exercises are essential for preventing panic in overstretched professionals; determining how best to allocate resources for sudden surges of need; preventing transmission of disease; devising effective mental health preventive strategies and interventions; providing constantly updated, networked, information across multiple channels by way of widely recognized and trusted sources; and for training in how to handle fear, demoralization, and public loss of confidence in national institutions.

Including two CDs showing an international panel of experts discussing and teaching how best to plan for a bioterrorist event, this book is essential reading for health care providers, public health officials and community leaders involved in planning, preparation, and treatment for bioterrorism.

Robert J. Ursano, Ann E. Norwood, and Carol S. Fullerton are all based in the Department of Psychiatry at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda. All have long experience of clinical work and research in the area of post-traumatic stress disorder associated with disaster, terrorism, and bioterrorism.

BIOTERRORISM

Psychological and Public Health Interventions

Edited by

Robert J. Ursano,

Ann E. Norwood, and

Carol S. Fullerton



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