

BIOLOGICAL DECONTAMINATION

BIOLOGICAL DECONTAMINATION

1. An influx of Infectious patients may occur when there is a community outbreak of disease, following a bioterrorism event and if other healthcare facilities need assistance with an influx of patients.
2. Contaminated patients will be managed in the same manner as chemically contaminated patients once the contamination is known. Initial patients may enter the Emergency Department before staff have knowledge of the contamination. Typically, biological agents have a latent period. Thus, patients presenting to the Emergency Department may no longer be contaminated and will need treatment according to the agent involved. If the agent is communicable, the patient will be placed into an isolation room or cohorted with patients that have similar symptoms/diagnosis.
3. The Wyoming Department of Health must be contacted to provide guidance on handling, testing and treatment of patients.
4. Depending on the nature of the contaminating agent, the number of victims and patient acuity, other disaster alerts may be called.
5. Materials used for decontamination are considered hazardous and disposed of according to IMH's Hazardous Materials Policy.

Refer to Policy HW061

