

## **TABLETOP EXERCISE BIOTERRORISM**

Use these questions to guide discussion with regard to the following events:

1. What should classroom teachers be doing now?
2. What actions do you take with your students at this time?
3. What is the status of school emergency response teams at this time?
4. Where is your command post at this time?
5. What transition in the incident command system is taking place now? How?
6. What information do you need?
7. What action can you take to get the needed information?
8. What information to provide to the staff, students, parents, etc.?

**H hour: The nation has been under a Threat Level Orange for the past week. The county health department just sent a notice to school nurses that they are to be vigilant for the following symptoms among the students and staff, and to report any occurrence of the symptoms immediately.**

**H+5 min: The school nurse reports that there are 20% more student absences than the school normally experiences.**

**H+8 min: Your school receives a call from a teacher whose class is with the field trip outside the community. She has a student who is becoming very sick. She wants to know what she should do.**

**H+10 min: A radio report says schools in an adjacent county are reporting an outbreak of AAA.**

**H+13 min: Your school has a small group of students that are about to depart for an academic competition being hosted a school in another district.**

**H+15 min: The Emergency Alerting System announces that there are reports of contaminated food supplies causing an outbreak of AAA.**

**H+20 min: The school nurse has identified two students in different parts of the school with the early symptoms of AAA.**

**H+25 min: You are two minutes from changing classes and beginning the first lunch period.**

**H+30 min: Notice is received from the County Health Department that the source of transmission for AAA is contaminated milk within the school food supply. The following information is provided regarding AAA.**

**H+35 min: A concerned parent calls the school office to check on information she heard about an epidemic in the schools.**

**H+37 min:** Several parents arrive at the school to get their children.

**H+40 min:** Medical personnel dispatched by the Health Department have arrived at school. They direct a “lockdown” be initiated.

**H+42 min:** A vending machine supplier is at the school restocking his machines at the time of the lockdown.

**H+44 min:** One police officer arrives to assist in the “lockdown.” The officer says that he will be the only law enforcement officer available to support this school for a while, since all the officers on duty have been deployed.

**H+46 min:** A media release from the activated County EOC is monitored over the Emergency Alerting System. All schools in the County are locked down. Some students are showing symptoms of AAA in several schools.

**H+50 min:** Some students are traumatized by the deteriorating medical conditions of students they had been with. Others are becoming afraid because of what they hear is going on. Many students say they are feeling sick, although there are no symptoms evident.

**H+54 min:** Parents are congregated outside the school. Some are becoming loud and aggressive.

**H+1 hr:** Medical officials are requesting information about students who are not at the school. For the first time the word “quarantine” is used in the discussion of possible actions.

**H+1 hr 5 min:** Medical officials want to begin planning for prophylaxis for students and staff.

**H+1 hr 10 min:** A teacher reports that two of her students ran out of a fire exit.

**H+1 hr 15 min:** A teacher trips and falls at your school and suffers a head injury. The teacher is unconscious.

**H+1 hr 20 min:** A quarantine is imposed.

**H+ 1 hr 25 min:** A TV news reporter from a national network affiliate is on the scene trying to interview a school district representative along with all the parents outside the school. The cameraman moves to get video coverage through a school window.

**H+1 hr 30 min:** Two staff members with children in other schools request permission to join their children at their schools.

**H+1hr 35 min: Someone activated a fire alarm pull station.**

Conclude the exercise with an After Action Review:

- What did we do well?
- What could we do better next time?
- What changes should we make in our plan?