

Case Studies

January 2004: GREENBRIER VALLEY BIOTERRORISM PREPAREDNESS TABLETOP DRILL EXERCISE

Scenario: Congressman X traveled to the Greenbrier Hotel from Washington DC by train with his wife and two children. On Saturday, the second day of their vacation, his 4 year old son developed a temperature and signs of an upper respiratory infection, and since there had been a chickenpox outbreak in their condo's daycare center, the congressman's wife confined him to their room. On the next day, Sunday, his temperature is 104 and The Greenbrier Clinic on-call doctor is called. After examination, he confirmed probable chickenpox, recommended treatment and suggested he be seen by a pediatrician on Monday, or if he gets worse, to the Emergency Room at Greenbrier Valley Medical Center. The boy's throat looked red, he had a mild cough, a runny nose, minimally swollen glands, and seemed fretful, but not disoriented. There was no rash.

On Monday, the hotel arranged an appointment with Dr. W. at the Robert C. Byrd Clinic and limousine transport is provided. Dr. W., wearing a mask and gloves for the exam, notes that the child's glands are swollen, his cough is pronounced, and there is a rash without blisters on his arms, legs, and face. His temperature is 103, and he very sleepy. His 6 year old sister also has a mild fever and headache; she has had chickenpox so was allowed to play with him in their room over the weekend.

While in the examining room, the Congressman's personal assistant accompanying the family receives a page and leaves the room. He returns a few minutes later to tell Dr. W. that there have been confirmed smallpox cases centering in the Washington DC condo complex where the Congressman's family reside. Dr. W. feels this child may have smallpox, or must at least be treated as if he has until it is ruled out.

Round-table discussion to follow. Suggested talking points:

1. What would your agency's role be in the scenario above, immediate, extended, and /or preparatory?
2. Would your agency expect to be notified, and if so, how and by whom?
3. Which agencies would your facility contact for what purpose?
4. What supplies would you prepare?
5. Who will handle questions from the community?