

## Appendix E

### Biosecurity Emergency Risk Assessment

A biosecurity emergency is any event that potentially could involve animal or human exposure to infectious and/or contagious diseases.

In the event of a biosecurity emergency, the following actions should be implemented.

1. Take immediate action to protect people and animals on the premises.
2. If a biosecurity incident is underway (suspected or confirmed), do not leave your premises until instructed or authorized to do so. You may risk spreading the biological agent and expanding the incident beyond the perimeter of your farm/facilities and property.
3. Work with your veterinarian, medical provider, the MA Division of Animal Health and local Emergency Management Director to properly diagnose the nature of the biosecurity emergency, and the implementation or deployment of any neutralizing agents.
4. Conditions permitting, assess the scale, nature and origin of the biosecurity emergency.
  - Is this an acute biosecurity emergency or something that is an emergency threat?
  - Are people, animals or plants dead or dying? . . . at an alarming rate?
  - Is this biosecurity emergency local and limited to your farm, or is this emergency impacting neighbors and others beyond the perimeter of your property?
  - Is the nature of this emergency publicly known, i.e., public radio announcements, or, newly discovered by you or someone on your premises and unknown to others?
  - Is the nature of the risk and emergency known, i.e., avian/bird flu; brucellosis; equine encephalitis; Johne's Disease; BSE (Mad Cow); pollen contamination; soybean rust; West Nile virus; etc.?
  - Is the nature of the emergency unknown, but observations confirm people and animals are at risk?
  - Is the origin of the emergency known and what are the vectors of transmissibility, i.e., airborne; waterborne; insect borne; visitor's boots, hands and clothing; contaminated feed, water or equipment; etc.?
5. Use your judgment and call appropriate people for assistance.
  - Call 911 for first response to current and imminent threats.
  - Call MA Department of Agricultural Resources for animal and plant health related issues at 617-626-1795.
6. Where appropriate, and safe to do so, take immediate action to mitigate harm to people, plants and animals.
  - Wear appropriate protective gear (gloves, respirators, etc.). Work carefully with affected victims, being careful to not expose yourself to a biological agent, or to cross-infect or contaminate people, plants or animals that appear not to be impacted.
  - Exercise awareness, assessment and judgment – remember carbon monoxide is odorless and colorless, but could be the cause of a biosecurity breach that is causing injury and death.