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# No Mystery Germs, Say Civil Defense Experts

By RAY DENNIS

The term "Biological Warfare" has frightened and puzzled many Americans. In an effort to clear up any misunderstandings concerning this matter, The Eccentric is presenting a series of two articles with information prepared by the Michigan Office of Civil Defense and based on the Biological Warfare booklet, "What You Should Know About Biological Warfare."

This week's concluding article explains what the individual should do in the event of biological warfare; what would happen after an attack was spotted and what precautions should be taken by individuals after an attack.

### LAST OF TWO ARTICLES

JUST WHAT SHOULD YOU do in the event of biological warfare? Civil Defense officials present the following simple suggestions: "Keep yourself and your home clean. Germs have trouble living in clean places."

"Report sickness promptly. If you live on a farm, report all sickness or deaths among your poultry or livestock. Report plant diseases or unusual insects you find in your garden or crops."

"Give all possible help to authorities. If you're asked for a blood sample, give it. If you're told a 'shot in the arm' or vaccination is needed by all, don't delay."

"Don't take chances on food and water in open containers. Bottled or canned goods are safe after a BW attack if the container isn't broken. If in doubt, boil for 10 minutes as that will kill most germs."

"Special start rumors. Don't believe rumors. Start a rumor and you may start a panic and a panic could cost you your life."

THE CIVIL DEFENSE booklet emphasizes that the public should "kill the myths" whenever they appear.

Officials maintain that germ warfare will not knock out entire cities. In addition they say that talk of poisons that can kill millions is nonsense.

The booklet concludes, "No mystery germs will cause terrible epidemics."

However, in spite of all our knowledge of how to fight biological warfare, it is possible for this country to be hit, and citizens will not necessarily have advance warning of biological attacks.

Officials state that by keeping yourself, your family, your house and your neighborhood clean, by reporting any unusual diseases promptly, and cooperating with medical and public health authorities, this country can win a biological war just as it was victorious in air, sea and land war in World War two.

HEALTH SERVICE DIVISIONS of the country or city civil defense organization, working with health officers, veterinarians and plant specialists, would have the job of spotting the attack and stamping it out.

Specially trained crews would be sent out to check for the presence of germs or toxins. Doctors and veterinarians would make special reports of unusual illness among people and animals.

Once the attack has been classified, prompt action would prevent its spread to other people and areas.

Authorities say, "If an attack should create a serious outbreak of some very 'catching' disease, it would be necessary to place a strict quarantine on certain areas."

"WHERE LIVESTOCK or food crops were hit, all outgoing shipments of animals, milk, or other farm produce might have to be barred for a time. A single violation of official regulations might lead to another outbreak," they warn.

destroy the stricken crops. These are harsh measures, but all persons who suffered in this season must be measured against the overall damage to the nation which could come from failure to stop fast-spreading diseases at the very start."

INDIVIDUALS MUST practice personal and household cleanliness to minimize dangers of BW attack. Germs don't like clean places.

Civil defense officials warn that the likelihood of disease warning of a BW attack is slight. However, they point out that there are no "mystery" diseases that can kill or sicken whole areas at one time that the counter measures to BW are well known, and that prompt diagnosis and thorough cooperation by the public can minimize the effects of enemy action with germs and toxins.

Many persons have asked what they should take after a biological warfare attack.

Germs and toxins can cause sickness only if they get inside the body. Usually they enter through the nose or mouth, or open cuts and wounds. Only a few kinds of germs and poisons can work their way in through unbroken skin.

Obviously, the citizen can't go about wearing an absolutely airtight covering over his whole body. Therefore, a thorough scrubbing of the clothes and whole body after exposure is necessary.

BOILING PLUS a good soaping of clothes usually will make them perfectly safe. Tubs and washers used for this purpose should be thoroughly cleaned to prevent pollution of things later washed in them.

Food and water are the natural homes of many disease producers. Persons should be careful of what they eat and drink after a BW attack has been announced.

Providing the containers were thoroughly cleaned and bottled goods would be perfectly safe to use following attacks of all kinds, including atomic bombings, the civil defense booklet states.

Biological warfare is simply a special kind of attack. It can be used against people, livestock or food crops. America's alert and proven public health protection system is the keystone of the defense against BW.

IF BIOLOGICAL WARFARE ever comes to America, civil defense authorities will announce the facts of each raid and give any special instructions needed to minimize its effects.

In brief, the main points to remember are to boil water and eat food from unbroken containers until the danger is declared over. Keep yourself, your household, your farm and your neighborhood clean at all times.

Civil defense officials further request all citizens to remember that germ warfare will not knock out entire cities, that talk of poisons that can kill millions at a time is utter nonsense, and that "mystery germs" can cause terrible epidemics.

A copy of the official booklet, "What You Should Know About Biological Warfare" can be obtained by writing the Michigan Office of Civil Defense, Prudden Building, Lansing.

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