



John O. Norquist
Mayor
Seth L. Foldy, MD
Commissioner of Health
Bevan K. Baker, CHE
Health Operations Director



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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CITY OF MILWAUKEE RESPONSE TO RAISING TERRORISM THREAT ALERT FROM YELLOW (ELEVATED) TO ORANGE (HIGH)

In response to today's announcement by Attorney General John Ashcroft and Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge raising the national terrorism threat level from "elevated" to "high, Mayor John O. Norquist, Common Council President Marvin Pratt and Commissioner of Health Dr. Seth L. Foldy will hold a **press conference at 3:00 PM today in Rm. 101 of City Hall, 200 E. Wells Street.**

Although the City of Milwaukee has not been identified as a specific target or part of any terrorism threat, the Milwaukee Health Department has initiated a number of activities consistent with corresponding public health sector heightened awareness and alert status. These activities include:

- Notifying health care providers and laboratories to be alert of suspicious health problems that might indicate terrorism and to report these to the Milwaukee Health Department.
- Establishing a temporary telephone hotline (414-286-3616) for communications from the medical community and others with concerns or questions.
- Posting CDC guidance for protecting large building ventilation systems from tampering. Information located on the MHD website (www.milwaukee.gov/health).
- Redistribution to city departments of the Health Departments protocol for handling suspicious mail and packages.
- Coordination with federal law enforcement and County Emergency Management pertaining to review of incoming intelligence and subsequent credibility and threat analysis.

Finally, the Milwaukee Health Department will work closely with regional local public health agencies and hospital bioterrorism planning consortia to develop and distribute pertinent information including necessary response protocols as received or developed throughout the duration of the elevated terrorism alert.

Media Contact:

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Press Conference:

**Date: Friday, February 7, 2003
Location: City Hall, 200 E. Wells Rm. 101
Time: 3:00 PM
Participants: Mayor John O. Norquist
Common Council President Marvin Pratt
Commissioner of Health Seth L. Foldy M.D.**