

# HOMELAND SECURITY

By Paul Nelson, Tenafly High School, Tenafly, NJ

## **Introduction**

A terrorist releases an unknown infectious agent near your home. People get sick and go to your local hospital. But will the hospital be able to quickly identify and treat the disease?

Your team, part of the newly created cabinet level agency on homeland security, is committed to protecting the population. You want the area hospital to run a simulated crisis to test its readiness.

You will design and market a plan that tests a hospital's readiness.

## **The Task**

You are the top public official in charge of homeland security. You want to design a drill that checks if a local hospital is ready to respond to the release of a biological agent by terrorists. Your task is to design a drill that checks a hospital's readiness.

## **The Resources**

- Hospitals: <http://www.njha.com/directories/dirmemhosalpha.asp>
- Infectious Agent:
  - <http://www.bt.cdc.gov>
  - <http://ccc.apgea.army.mil>
  - <http://www.virology.net/garryfavwebbw.html> (Bacterial Warfare)
  -
- Advanced search in Google: [http://www.google.com/advanced\\_search?hl=en](http://www.google.com/advanced_search?hl=en)

## The Process

1. Join a group of 4 students.
2. Pick a role for each member.

Roles:

- **Epidemiologist** – You select the pathogen and research the symptoms.
  - **Drama Director** – You write the scripts for the symptoms and the training document for the actors.
  - **Project Director** and Timekeeper – You help any person who needs help. You proofread all text. You keep group on task. You are enthusiastic and encouraging.
  - **Marketing Director** – You select hospital. You write a letter/email to the hospital. You design power point presentation.
  - (Extra person?) Analyze the competition: Are any other organizations also doing this for hospitals? What are they doing?
3. Answer you question set. (Epidemiologist, Drama Director, Project Director/Timekeeper, marketing Director)
  4. Report back to the group.

### Question Set – **Epidemiologist**

- What is the agent?
  - o Select a **pathogen** so that there is transfer from person to person.
- Where and will the agent be released?
- How will the agent be released?
- What symptoms will an infected person exhibit?

### Question Set – **Drama director**

- What was the infectious agent selected by the bacteriologist /virologist?
- What are the symptoms of a person who gets infected?
- How many people will be needed as actors. What ages? Where and when will they be trained?
- When will they arrive at the hospital?
- When asked about their symptoms what answers will these people give to the doctors?
- What will these people write down to be used to evaluate the hospital's performance?

### Question Set – **Project Director**

What is the total time given to the project?

- What is the completion date?
- Where will the agent be released?
- What are the web sites that the group is using? (Make sure your group cites these in the word documents.)
- Email the hospital director and market your plan.

- o Identify yourself as a student.
- o Ask for feedback on plan.
- o Volunteer to actually do the plan for the hospital.

### **Marketing Director**

- What area hospital will be tested for its response?
- Who is the person that this plan will be marketed to?
- What background will be used for the power point presentation?
- What graphics will be used? Save these in a folder: “GraphicsTerrorReady”
- The final product: Design a power point presentation of your proposal

You have now made the world safer.

### **Credits & References**

Grading Rubric from [The WebQuest Page](#)