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cc  
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### **Guidelines for Handling University Mail**

As a general precaution, we are providing the following guidelines for use when handling All University Mail.

#### Unopened Mail

- \* Do not open suspicious mail; instead leave the area and Contact University Police at X-333 (631-632-3333).
- \* Please review the protocol for identifying suspicious mail below.

#### Opened Mail that contains suspicious material

- \* Do not panic. Contain the exposure and contact University Police at X-333 (631-632-3333).
- \* Please review specific containment protocols below.

**The following has been issues by the Governors office and may be found in it entirety at <http://www.nysegov.com/news/anthraxinfo.htm>**

NYS Health Dept./State Police  
Bio-Terror Prevention Protocols

Protocols for Mail Handling

#### General:

- \* Every business and organization should assess and review their protocols for handling mail. Common sense and care should be used in inspecting and opening mail or packages.
- \* Examine unopened envelopes for foreign bodies or powder.
- \* Do not open letters with your hands: use a letter opener.
- \* Open letters and packages with a minimum of movement to avoid spilling any contents.
- \* Each organization should assess whether it is a possible target for criminal acts. Based on this assessment, you may wish to take additional precautions such as wearing gloves and restricting the opening of mail to a limited number of trained individuals.

#### What Types of Mail May be Suspect:

- \* Any letter or package that has suspicious or threatening messages written on it
- \* Letters with oily stains or that have protruding wires
- \* Envelopes that are lopsided, rigid, bulky, discolored or have a strange odor
- \* Envelopes with no return address
- \* Unexpected envelopes from foreign countries or from someone unfamiliar to you
- \* No postage, non-cancelled postage or mail with too many postage stamps
- \* Improper spelling of common names, places or titles

- \* Mail that shows a city or state in the postmark that does not match the return address

#### FOR SUSPECT ENVELOPES:

- \* DO NOT OPEN THE ENVELOPE OR PACKAGE.
- \* LEAVE it and EVACUATE the room.
- \* KEEP others from entering.
- \* NOTIFY your supervisor, who should call 911 or the local law enforcement authorities.

#### FOR PACKAGES THAT ARE OPENED AND WHICH CONTAIN SUSPICIOUS MATERIAL

##### DO NOT PANIC

- \* Anthrax organisms can cause skin infection, gastrointestinal infection or pulmonary infection. To do so, the organism must be rubbed into abraded skin, swallowed, or inhaled as a fine, aerosolized mist. It does not leap into one's body. All forms of disease are generally treatable with antibiotics.
- \* Anthrax cannot be easily aerosolized out of an envelope or package containing powder. The same facts and conditions are generally true for other bacteria likely to be considered as biological weapons.

##### CONTAIN THE EXPOSURE

- \* Close off the room (doors and windows), do not allow anyone other than qualified emergency personnel to enter.
- \* Close the package or envelope to limit additional exposure. Do not clean powder up; keep others away.
- \* Do not touch your eyes, nose or any other part of your body.
- \* If possible, wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.
- \* If clothing is heavily contaminated, don't brush vigorously.
- \* If possible, close down the buildings heating/air conditioning/ventilation system.
- \* Make a list of all people who had actual contact with the powder for investigating authorities.

##### NOTIFY APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES

##### Immediately contact:

- \* University Police at X-333 (631-632-3333) your local law enforcement authorities

##### More information:

New York State Health Department, Bureau of Communicable Disease  
Control: 518-473-1730 (day); 518-465-9720 (after hours)

In New York City, call New York City Department of Health:  
212-788-9830 (day); Poison Control Center 212-764-7667 (after hours)

##### INFORMATIONAL LINKS

Center for Disease Control Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)  
[http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/anthrax\\_g.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/anthrax_g.htm)

Center for Disease Control Public Health Emergency Preparedness & Response

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/>

United States Postal Service Related Information

[http://www.usps.gov/news/2001/press/pr01\\_1010tips.htm](http://www.usps.gov/news/2001/press/pr01_1010tips.htm)

American Forces Information Service: Straight Talk on Anthrax from  
Top Doc

[http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Feb1999/n02251999\\_9902252.html](http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Feb1999/n02251999_9902252.html)

NYS Health Dept. Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Anthrax

<http://www.nysegov.com/news/anthraxfaq.htm>