

What Reporters are Likely to Ask Questions Relating to Bioterror Events



Is this an act of terrorism?
Who did it?
How ill are the victims?
Will they survive?
How many people are affected?
Where are they?
What about their families and friends?
Will they be quarantined? Isolated?
Can you force people to stay at home? What if they don't?
How is this transmitted?
How contagious is it? Could it spread around the
(city/state/country/world)?
How many people could die?
Can it be cured?
Is this a new strain?
Can people protect against it?
How dangerous is it?
Who is helping the victims?
The hospital won't tell us anything. Don't people have a right to know?
What should people do?
What should they *not* do?
Did you anticipate this? How?
What preparations did you make?
Another agency had different information. How do you explain the conflict?
What are you doing to prevent public panic?
When will it be safe again?
When did this last happen? Where?
How do you feel about this? What can you say to victims, families?
Who is going to pay for this?
When will you know more? Will you tell us?

During a crisis it is important not to speculate or attempt to fix blame. Reporters will press hard on both. Responsibility or blame will be determined after an investigation. Protect your credibility and your legal position by avoiding comment until you are certain.