

Recognizing Waterborne Disease and the Health Effects of Water Contamination What Every Healthcare Provider and Public Health Practitioner Needs To Know



Author: Patricia L. Meinhardt, MD, MPH, MA

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Maintaining water quality and ensuring the health and safety of water supplies in the United States requires a collaborative partnership between the medical and public health community and water utility personnel. The importance of this collaboration has been underscored by the growing threat to the security of our nation's infrastructure that includes the possibility of intentional contamination of the nation's drinking waters by covert terrorism. **Healthcare practitioners and public health specialists are likely to be the first to observe unusual illness patterns or disease trends resulting from intentional biological, chemical or radiologic contamination of drinking water.** Therefore, it is imperative that we understand our critical role in recognizing waterborne disease and the health effects of water contamination and in cooperating with water utilities to protect our community's public health.

Purpose of this Physician Reference Guide
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A **new medical website** has been launched to assist healthcare providers and public health personnel recognize and manage waterborne disease and the health effects of water pollution resulting from either **natural OR intentional** contamination of water. The contents of this medical website, *Recognizing Waterborne Disease and the Health Effects of Water Pollution: A Physician On-Line Reference Guide*, are posted on the menu bar to the left and are accessible at www.WaterHealthConnection.org. Unique features of this medical website include:

- "24/7" availability with free access to 427 web pages of comprehensive information
- Clinically relevant information detailing the diagnosis and management of waterborne disease from pathogens and/or chemical contamination
- Repository of physician anti-terrorism preparedness and readiness resources
- New Section - **Physician Preparedness for Acts of Water Terrorism**
- Special risk communication and patient risk evaluation guidelines for both healthy and susceptible populations regarding waterborne disease
- "Ease of use" technology tools and website support for busy physician users
- Targeted search engines providing quick and easy access to 200 websites covering a diverse array of waterborne disease and water contamination issues
- Peer-reviewed content by leading medical and public health experts from medical academia and public health agencies including CDC, ATSDR, and EPA
- Continuing Medical Education (CME) accreditation toward AMA Physician's Recognition Award (maximum of 22 CME credits) sponsored by the American College of Preventive Medicine

Please share this important resource and CME offering with your colleagues!