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GENERAL INFORMATION ON SANITARY-EPIDEMILOGICAL SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM IN UKRAINE AND MEASURES WERE TAKEN TO COUNTERACT POSSIBLE BIOTERRORIST ACTIVITY IN THE CONTEXT OF EVENTS OF AUTUMN 2001

Prepared by Ukraine

1. By definition, sanitary protection of territory of Ukraine is the system of general state medical and sanitary measures (organizational, sanitary and hygienic, medical and prophylactic, antiepidemic) aimed at preventing penetration and spreading on the territory of Ukraine quarantine diseases (Cholera, Plague, Yellow Fever), Virus Hemorrhagic Fevers (Lassa, Ebola, Marburg), malaria and other dangerous infectious diseases, which are transferred by the mosquitoes (Denge Fever, Chicuncaunia, Rift Valleys, Western Nile, Horse Encephalomielitis - Western American and Venezuelan, encephalitis - Japanese, Californian, Saint Louis, Murray Valleys), and also at localizing and liquidating of centers of these diseases.

2. The procedure for such measures is determined by the number of legislative, normative and methodological documents. These documents first of all include the laws of Ukraine "On Ensuring the Sanitary and Epidemiological Well-Being of the Population", "On Protection of Population from Infectious Diseases"; Rules of Sanitary Protection on the Territory of Ukraine; Decree of MOH of Ukraine "On Improvement of Anticholeric Measures in Ukraine", "Instruction on Organization and Realization of Anticholeric Measures, Clinical and Laboratory Diagnostics of Cholera"; Decree of MOH of Ukraine "On Extraordinary Situation on Plague and Necessary Antiepidemic Measures" as well as other decrees and instructions.

3. For realization of complex of antiepidemic measures and prevention of occurrence and spreading of especially dangerous infectious diseases, including possible acts of bioterrorism, Ukraine has the state sanitary-epidemiological surveillance system. Sanitary-epidemiological monitoring is carried out by the sanitary-epidemiological service of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine. The sanitary-epidemiological service of MOH consists of sanitary-epidemiological stations and scientific and research institutes of epidemiological profile.

4. In the context of events of Autumn 2001 connected with spreading of Antrax through the mail sending the next measures were taken in Ukraine.
5. In October 2001 Ministry of Ukraine of Emergencies and Affairs of Population Protection from the Consequences of Chornobyl Catastrophe, Ministry of Health of Ukraine, Ministry of Agrarian Policy, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, State Committee of Communication and Information issued the joint Decree “On Measures of Prevention of Threat of Distribution of Dangerous Infectious Diseases Agents”. This Decree approved the Integrated Scheme of Reaction of Authorities and Forces in Case of Detection of the Substances of Unknown Origin in the Mail Correspondence and Other Places, and also Temporary Instructions of Actions of the Population and Employees of the Authorities, Enterprises and Organizations in such cases.

6. The Ministry of Emergencies has prepared and entered into force the comprehensive Plan of actions of the ministries, other central authorities, Council of Ministers of Autonomous Republic of Crimea, regional, Kiev and Sevastopol City State Administrations and local authorities on providing with medical and biological protection the population and territories, where were determined: the basic directions of work of authorities on detection and identification of dangerous biological agents; the procedures of informing of the population in case of detection of agents of dangerous infectious diseases; the task on providing of institutions of public health system with disinfection, rodent control, medical and preventive means, appropriate diagnostic systems and equipment, means of individual protection.

7. In October 2001 Ministry of Health of Ukraine elaborated and adopted Comprehensive Plan of organizational measures on maintenance the medical and biological protection of the population and territories. This plan assumes maintenance of operative communication, informing and interaction with the ministries, other central agencies and local authorities. Comprehensive Plan includes: providing the personal of different organisations with the training on improvement of actions in case of biological pathogenic agents contamination or threat of acts of terrorism; control of reserve of medicines, including diagnostic, desinfection means and individual means of protection; strengthening of the state sanitary-epidemiological surveillance on facilities of increased epidemiological risk.

8. Moreover on January 18, 2003 the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted (Decree №69) “Procedure of Reception in the Institutions of Executive Authority of Mail Sendings, Service Correspondens, Other Documents and Materials with Suspicious Enclosures that Can Pose Bacteriological, Chemical, Radiological or Explosion Danger”.

System of organization of specific indication of bacterial (biological) means

9. With the purpose of detection of biological pathogenic agents (BPA) in maximum short terms in the system of MOH since 1979 as part of networks of surveillance and laboratory control the system of organization of specific indication of bacterial (biological) means was created. The procedure of functioning of this system on the territory of Ukraine up to 2003 was regulated by the Decree of MOH of USSR of 10.07.1979 №152-c «System of Organization of Specific Indication of Bacteriological (Biological) Means».

10. On March 21, 2003 with the purpose of maintenance in Ukraine of reliable level of biological safety, timely indication and identification of type of biological pathogenic agents, MOH of Ukraine and AMS of Ukraine have adopted the new common Decree «On Improvement of System of Indication of Biological Pathogenic Agents» that has replaced the previous Decree of MOH of USSR of 1979.
11. According to this decree the country is divided into 6 regions in accordance with the number of appropriate Centres of indication on the territory of Ukraine. MOH also prepared Regulations on the Centres of Indication and Regulations on Leading Institutions of Indications as well as the Methodical Recommendations on Organization of Work and Functioning of System of Indication of Biological Pathogenic Agents.

12. Today the system of organization of specific indication of bacterial (biological) means includes three categories of institutions:

- **6 Centres of Specific Indication of Biological Pathogenic Agents**, namely: Central Sanitary-Epidemiological Station of MOH, L.V.Gromashevskogo Institute of Epidemiology and Infectious Diseases of AMS of Ukraine (Kyiv), Institute of Microbiology and Immunology of AMS of Ukraine (Kharkiv), Lviv Scientific and Research Institute of Epidemiology and Hygiene of MOH, Ukrainian Scientific and Research Antiplague Institute of MOH (Odesa); Antiplague Station of Autonomous Republic of Crimea. The administrative territories, where the Centres carry out indication and identification of all classes of BPA, are fixed for each Centre of indication. These Centres also fulfill functions of a profile Centre of indication of BPA on all territory of Ukraine, carrying out identification of non-classified at the previous stages of indications BPA (unknown, new, modernized, transgenic, combined) in accordance with their profile;

- **Leading institutions of BPA indication**, namely: Republican Sanitary-Epidemiological Station of Autonomous Republic of Crimea, regional and city sanitary-epidemiological stations of Kyiv and Sevastopol. These institutions conduct indication and identification of all types of biological pathogenic agents on appropriate territories and provide with methodical recommendations, training of personnel and practical help to the territorial sanitary-epidemiological stations on the issues of organization and carrying out of laboratory researches;

- **City, regional, on water, railway and air transport sanitary-epidemiological stations**. These institutions carry out surveillance of respective territories, collect sampling from different objects, which are suspected on contamination with the BPA, and send it to the respective territorial Leading institution of BPA indication.

Extract from methodological recommendations on organizing of functioning of BPA identification system


13.1. BPA identification (BPAI) system as an important element in the field of medical and biological protection of population and environment, is a part of state civil protection system from contamination and harmful influence of biologic pathogenous agents.

13.2. Objectives of BPAI system are: determination and identification of agents (of biotic and abiotic origin), which contaminate people, environment, food, drinking water etc.; analysis and estimation of situation to provide effective administrative, economic, restrictive, antiepidemic, medical and preventive measures concerning prevention or reduction of contamination rate, timely provision of medical assistance.
13.3. General supervision and control of fulfilment of BPAI tasks is provided by Ministry of Health in co-operation with Ministry of Emergencies and Affairs of Population Protection from Consequences of Chornobyl Catastrophe and other authorities.

13.4. Methodological supervision of identification of pathogenous agents, laboratory methods and training of staff is provided by Central Sanitary-Epidemiological Station of Ministry of Health of Ukraine.

13.5. Indication and identification of biological pathogenous agents in railway, air and water transport, administrative territories is a duty of the state sanitary epidemiological services and scientific institutions of Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine and Ministry of Health of Ukraine. They collaborate with appropriate organizations and divisions of antiepidemic specialization of Ministry of Defence, Security Service, Ministry for Internal Affairs, State Committee on Protection of State Border, Ministry of Agrarian Policy and other authorities.


13.7. All institutions (laboratories), within BPAI system, are working according to Unified State System of Prevention and Reaction on Technogenic and Natural Emergencies. It comprises:

"State of daily activity",
"State of the increased readiness",
"State of emergency situation",
"State of emergency". 