

**Attachment 2: Epidemiologic Characteristics of Key Biothreat Agents**

Disease	Pathogen	Mode(s) of Transmission	Risk of Human-to-Human Transmission	Isolation Precautions
Anthrax (A)#	<i>Bacillus anthracis</i>	Direct contact with contaminated animal products (e.g., hides), inhalation of spores, or ingestion of contaminated food.	Rare cases of human-to-human transmission via direct contact with cutaneous lesions. Risk of infection via inhalation from contaminated clothes/patient items.	Cutaneous: Contact  Pulmonary: Standard
Hemorrhagic fever viruses (A)	Multiple agents*	Direct contact with potentially infective material (blood, vomitus stool, tissue).	Highly contagious via direct contact and droplet; possible sexual transmission; airborne transmission unclear	Special Precautions
Botulism (A)	<i>Clostridium botulinum</i>	Ingestions, aerosolization	None	Standard
Plague (A)	<i>Yersinia pestis</i>	Fleabite, cat scratch, inhalation.	High for pneumonic plague, theoretical for cutaneous plague (via inhalation from aspiration or irrigation). Risk of infection via inhalation from contaminated clothes/patient items.	Bubonic: Droplet for 72 hours after initiation of therapy  Pneumonic: Droplet for 72 hours after initiation of therapy
Q fever (B)	<i>Coxiella burnetii</i>	Contact with product of conception, inhalation.	Rare. Risk of infection via inhalation from contaminated clothes/patient items.	Contact for delivery procedures; Standard for all other patient care
Smallpox (A)	Variola	Contact with lesions, droplet and airborne	Highly contagious via direct contact and airborne	Special Airborne and Contact
Tularemia (A)	<i>Franciscella tularensis</i>	Contact, ingestion, or inhalation of contaminated products	None	Draining lesion: Standard  Pulmonary: Standard

# CDC classification of biothreat agents

\* Includes Ebola, Marburg, Lassa, Congo-Crimean fever, Argentinean, and Bolivian hemorrhagic fever