

*If Red Alert occurs during duty hours:*

- Access to NIH campuses and facilities will be highly restricted to visitors and commercial vendors.
- Visitors and vendors will go through increased security measures to verify their identities. The visitor or vendor must be escorted at all times during their visit to the NIH campus or facility. The NIH web site outlining security measures for visitors is: <http://www.nih.gov/about/visitorssecurity.htm>.
- Evacuation of NIH facilities may occur if there is a fire, release of chemical or biological materials, radiation incident, bomb threat/explosive incident, or explosive device.
- Shelter-in-Place may be implemented. Shelter-in-place is designed to meet emergencies measured in hours, not days. These guidelines apply to any emergency or potential emergency caused by natural disasters, chemical, radiological, or biological incidents, terrorist threats and other crisis situations where the safest course of action for an employee would be to remain inside a building. In some situations, you may be asked to remain at your meeting location, and in others, to relocate to a pre-determined location. In the event of an emergency that requires you to shelter-in-place, your Executive Secretary or Scientific Review Administrator will provide more detailed instructions specific to your building. Visitors will be directed to a safe place and asked to sign in.

If you would like additional information, please feel free to visit the U.S. Department of Homeland Security website:

<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/index.jsp>.



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NATIONAL  
INSTITUTES OF  
HEALTH

## *Emergency Preparedness*

FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The world has changed since September 11, 2001. We remain a nation at risk to terrorist attacks and will remain at risk for the foreseeable future. Even before September 2001, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) increased its focus on security with the goal of protecting our personnel, infrastructure, and research, while minimizing vulnerabilities and risks. The NIH security staff continually evaluates new information and input to determine necessary operational changes and improvements.

## NIH's Security Measures

Below are just a few of the measures NIH has in place for the protection of their employees and guests:

**Division of Emergency Preparedness and Coordination (DEPC).** The DEPC manages all emergency preparedness for NIH facilities, both on and off campus. The DEPC also serves as the NIH Emergency Coordinator with Montgomery County, state officials, and national emergency response organizations.

**Incident Command System (ICS).** NIH employs a nationally recognized, standardized management system used by emergency response agencies to manage all types of emergencies.

**Office of Research Services (ORS) Emergency Response to Potential Acts of Bioterrorism.** The ORS has a number of components dedicated to planning for and mitigating both natural and man-made emergencies on the NIH campus. These ORS groups interface with local county and state emergency response organizations when necessary.

## Homeland Security Advisory System and the NIH.

The NIH follows the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Advisory System. There are five Threat Conditions, each identified by a description and corresponding color. From lowest to highest, the levels and colors are green, blue, yellow, orange, and red.

**Low Condition (Green).** A Low Condition is declared when there is a low risk of terrorist attacks.

**Guarded Condition (Blue).** A Guarded Condition is declared when there is a general risk of terrorist attacks.

**Elevated Condition (Yellow).** An Elevated Condition is declared when there is a significant risk of terrorist attacks.

**High Condition (Orange).** A High Condition is declared when there is a high risk of terrorist attacks. NIH security measures at the Orange Alert level include the following:

- Coordinate necessary security efforts with Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies or any National Guard or other appropriate armed forces organizations
- Take additional precautions at public events and possibly consider alternative venues or even cancellation
- Prepare to execute contingency procedures, such as moving to an alternate site or dispersing workforce
- Restrict threatened facility access to essential personnel only

- Restrict the number of vehicle entry points to the NIH campus. All vehicles will be inspected by security officers
- Require:
  - All persons to display a photo identification
  - All persons to pass a metal detection scan
  - All packages and bags to be searched prior to entry

**Severe Condition (Red).** A Severe Condition reflects a heightened risk of terrorist attacks. Under most circumstances, a Severe Condition is not intended to be sustained for substantial periods of time. In addition to the security measures outlined above, the following measures are also implemented:

- Increase or redirect personnel to address critical emergency needs
- Assign emergency response personnel and pre-position and mobilize specially trained teams or resources
- Monitor, redirect, or constrain transportation systems
- Ready building evacuation and shelter-in-place plans for implementation
- Prepare for possible closure of public and government facilities

*If Red Alert occurs during non-duty hours, only those individuals designated as "RED Alert Critical" personnel will have access to NIH campuses and facilities*