

READ THIS FIRST

Summary of Medication Instructions

- 1** You have been given 1 bottle of antibiotics for each member of your household – either Doxycycline or Ciprofloxacin (also called Cipro). Both antibiotics are safe and effective in preventing anthrax.
- o Most people, except pregnant or breast feeding women and children under age 8, will take Doxycycline. Anyone with a known allergy to Doxycycline should take Ciprofloxacin.
 - o Pregnant or breast feeding women are *generally* given Ciprofloxacin. However, if they are allergic to Ciprofloxacin, it is still safe for mothers and their babies to take Doxycycline.
 - o Children under age 8 should take Ciprofloxacin. However, if they are allergic to Ciprofloxacin, it is still safe for them to take Doxycycline.
 - o Write the initials or name for each household member on their bottle.
 - o If you were given Ciprofloxacin and you have been told you have decreased kidney function, read the separate instruction sheet that explains how much to take.

- 2** Adults and children able to swallow pills must take one pill every 12 hours.
- o Begin taking the medication today. These antibiotics are most effective when started soon after exposure and *before* symptoms might appear.
 - o Each bottle has enough pills for the first 10 days. The Health Department will make an announcement *if* you need to take your antibiotic longer and where to get additional supplies. This decision will be made after tests have determined the exact nature of the threat.
 - o Carefully read the information sheets about your antibiotic and about anthrax that have been provided in your packet of materials. Share the information you've been given with your household members.
 - o For children or adults who cannot swallow pills, follow the separate instruction sheets you have been given. The sheets tell you:
 - o How to crush and mix the Doxycycline or Ciprofloxacin pills
 - o How much to give your child depending on their weight
 - o To take one dose every 12 hours

Important

Call your doctor or seek medical attention right away *if* you develop any of these side effects: skin rash, hives, or itching; wheezing or trouble breathing; swelling of the face, lips, or throat; convulsions; severe diarrhea.