

Identify lessons for the future that can be learned from past public health experiences. What changes would you recommend to improve the outcomes?

One of the most recent issues we can learn from is the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome or SARS of 2003. After SARS was recognized in China we did not localize it early enough and people traveled, spreading the disease. The CDC response did work closely with WHO and established a response which included:

- Emergency Operations Center
- Committed medical expert and staff
- Medical officers and epidemiologists were assigned around the world.
- Collaboration with state and local government to investigate causes in the United States.
- Extensive laboratory testing to establish causes
- Established health alert notices to travelers.

Improved outcomes may be established by ongoing efforts by the CDC with other federal agencies working together to establish plans for rapid responses, recommendations and guidelines for public health safety. Changes to improve outcomes are to establish global collaboration earlier and establish symptoms, how it spreads and how to provide education and a global response to the disease.

#### **References:**

University of Phoenix. (2010). Public Health 101 Chapter 12 Public Health Institutions and Systems. Retrieved from University of Phoenix, HCS 457 website.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). *Basic Information about SARS*. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/factsheet.htm>

#### **Response 2**

On September 11, 2001, the United States experienced the worst terrorist attack in its history. As the nation sought to deal with this tragedy, it would face a second wave of terrorism—this time, in the form of a biological attack. The suspicion of anthrax in a patient by an astute infectious disease clinician along with capable clinical and public health laboratory staff in Florida would lead to the discovery that *Bacillus anthracis* spores had been intentionally distributed through the postal system, causing 22 cases of anthrax, including 5 deaths, and forever changing the realm of public health.

These lessons have also led the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to change the way they operate. Changes have been made within the CDC programs, among staff and partners, and in coordination with other federal agencies. Many of these changes have been based on valuable input provided by public and private sector experts during numerous consultations. Terrorism response capacity is being integrated into existing infrastructures, further strengthening the foundation of public health.

[www.cdc.gov/ncidod/eid/vol8no10/02-0466.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/eid/vol8no10/02-0466.htm) Retrieved from CDC-Anthrax