

Bioterrorism from page A1

Dr. Brooks Bock, chairman of emergency medicine at WSU. "It is a tragedy that people have died; however, it is a very small number."

He compared that number to the average of 30,000 Americans that die every year from influenza.

"I think you should go in and get your flu shot," Brown said. "Are we doing everything we can to prevent influenza? No."

He added that having the population immunized for influenza

would help later identify anthrax cases, as the two have similar symptoms.

Couturier said the strain of anthrax that has been spread by terrorists is treatable with antibiotics, including Cipro and doxycycline.

"This is not weapons-grade anthrax," said Craig Giroux, assistant professor, at WSU's Center for Molecular Medicine and Genetics.

People also should not expect to be widely screened for

anthrax with nasal swabs.

"Nasal swabs are not a very effective screen," said Dr. Brooks Bock, chairman of emergency medicine at WSU.

He explained the swabs are used from an epidemiological standpoint only, to determine the extent the disease has spread.

Being prepared

Michigan has done an excellent job of being prepared, Brown said.

■ 'Don't let it paralyze you. Go on with your lives.'

Jeffrey Hobden
—WSU Assistant Professor

"Two years ago, the state hired a microbiologist to go to 'Level A' labs throughout the state," he said. "Anthrax is very easy to identify."

"We've been proactive and

have had a committee on bioterrorism for several years," said Rick Renas, epidemiologist with Oakland County. "Central to the plan is a coordinated response with others in Oakland County."

"Both ER physicians and administrators have been preparing for this for three to four years," Bock said.

"There is no hospital that has not been involved in the last few weeks in educating its personnel."

"I think people need to realize

that this is not a crisis that arose overnight," Giroux said. "We've been prepared for decades."

Hobden compared the fear to a more realistic scenario. "It's like people being afraid to go to the inner-city for a sporting event or cultural event. Go, but use common sense."

"Anthrax is a remote possibility. Don't let it paralyze you. Go on with your lives."

Free counseling offered

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Susan Kurtzman of the Davis Counseling Center of Farmington Hills said counselors there have decided to offer free group therapy that could benefit the community.

A session for adults experiencing depression, anxiety, sleeplessness or other symptoms is scheduled for 6:30-8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 5. A session for people age 14 through adult is 7:30-9 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 8.

Davis Counseling Center is at 37923 W. 12 Mile, on the south side of the road west of Halsted.

"I think that what makes this tragedy unique is it impacts

every one of us," said counselor Patricia Pinter, who will head the adult session. "My goal would be to help people especially who aren't connected to family or to people they feel comfortable sharing with."

Counselors will not push people to participate at the session, she said. "They can express what they want to express."

"The effect of this crisis is ongoing, we haven't come to any kind of closure on it," Kurtzman said. "One of the things is to have an opportunity to have a person talk about their own feelings. We all watch TV, but we really don't verbalize about it."

Sessions are limited in size; call 563-8550 to reserve a spot.

Youth from page A1

25, showed participation generally matched the level portrayed by the mayor and the program director.

A count of kids participating Tuesday, Oct. 23, in the after-school program showed 71 at 3:15 p.m. at Warner School on 14 Mile, 44 at 3:40 p.m. at the YMCA on Farmington Road, 47 at 3:50 p.m. at the Costick Center on 11 Mile Road and 35 at 4:20 p.m. at the Ice Arena; for 197.

A count of participants Thursday, Oct. 25, showed 38 at the YMCA at 3:03 p.m., 94 at Warner Middle School at 3:17, 45 at the Costick Center at 3:40 and 37 at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena - for 214.

Responding to the charge that many registrants do not attend, Lipsa said that some kids only need to use the program on occasion. But he said that any child must be registered in advance, "in case they get hurt while they're here. We have to have that (insurance and emergency contact information) on file before we can enter them in the program."

Lipsa said 1,500-2,000 youths are registered. Parents are told about the program in the fifth grade, during middle school orientation sessions.

Oliverio said that while he believes after school program is good, it should be funded at a level that matches participation. "You've got kids enrolled that are not going. Every one of us is for kids, but who is for waste?" he said.

Mayor Bates countered at an Oct. 16 candidate forum. She said that during his visit, Oliverio failed to count kids participating in activities in other rooms. "He should have walked down the hall," she said, adding

that 200 students attend per day.

When Lipsa seeks money for the annual program's \$278,501 budget from potential contributors, "We use numbers we have registered over the five years. I talk about kids we see each day," he said.

David Boyer, Hills special services director, said the 2001-02 contribution to the program from the city general fund is determined at year's end depending on the success of fund-raising and grant-seeking. The contribution this year from the general fund is projected at \$28,000, Boyer said.

The City of Farmington about \$20,000-\$25,000 annually based on a formula. The parks and recreation millage contributes \$100,000. Lipsa said money is also raised from business contributions, a joint telethon with local schools, through appeals to parents, from Cornucopia Ball proceeds and from pancake breakfast profits.

Most contributions come through the Farmington Hills/Farmington Community Foundation. Lipsa said he writes a grant proposal to receive money from the foundation, typically \$125,000-\$135,000 annually. Some donations go directly to the program, Boyer said.

Oliverio has also criticized use of public money to pay for a program not proven to curb juvenile delinquency. Lipsa said he has not sought to determine if the program statistically reduces juvenile crime in Farmington Hills. He said he would welcome a survey "if people have the money or the manpower."

The program is also available to middle school youth from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. during summer.

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