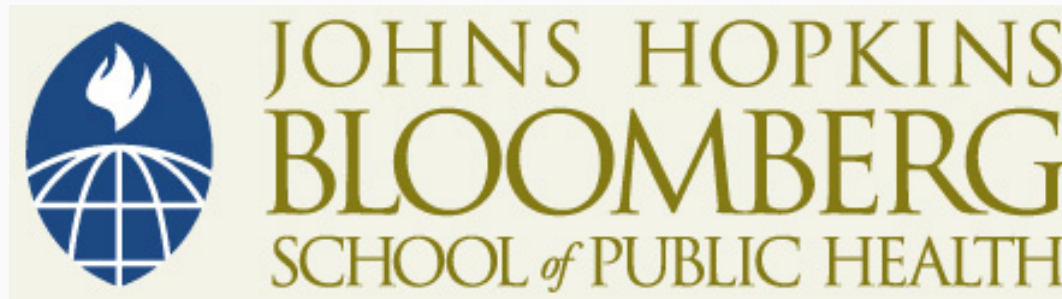


This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/). Your use of this material constitutes acceptance of that license and the conditions of use of materials on this site.



Copyright 2006, The Johns Hopkins University and Kellogg Schwab. All rights reserved. Use of these materials permitted only in accordance with license rights granted. Materials provided "AS IS"; no representations or warranties provided. User assumes all responsibility for use, and all liability related thereto, and must independently review all materials for accuracy and efficacy. May contain materials owned by others. User is responsible for obtaining permissions for use from third parties as needed.



JOHNS HOPKINS  
BLOOMBERG  
SCHOOL *of* PUBLIC HEALTH

*Part 5 of 5*

---

Summary

# Summary

- Microorganisms and toxins that could act as biological weapons are naturally occurring and can replicate
- Biological exposure routes can be air, water or food
- There are many characteristics which make specific microorganisms more appealing for use as a bioterrorism weapon including morbidity, mortality, availability, propagation, stability, dispersion

# Summary

- The CDC has classified bioterrorism microbial agents into categories A, B and C based on:
  - Ease of transmission
  - Severity of morbidity and mortality
  - Likelihood of use
- Most food and waterborne agents are classified as category B

# Summary

- Two key features of microbial agents with respect to food and water dispersion are the:
  - Size of the microorganism
  - Resistance to environmental degradation and chemical inactivation
- Food and waterborne microbes have specific characteristics such as low inoculation dose, ease of secondary transmission and moderate to high persistence in the environment that facilitate their potential use as bioterrorism agents