



FEMA

## HSEEP Exercise Design Guidance Biological Scenario Factors: Operations-Based Exercises

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These variables will assist the planning team in building an exercise scenario involving a biological agent. The following factors should be determined in sequential order when developing the scenario:

1. **Transmissibility.** Planning team members should determine if the agent will be contagious (e.g., smallpox) or noncontagious (e.g., anthrax).
2. **Lethality.** The lethality of the agent will help determine the number of casualties in the scenario. This determination should be based on the jurisdiction's capabilities to respond to a mass casualty situation. Planners should be careful not to overwhelm participants during the exercise.
3. **Effects.** The selection of the agent should also be based on its effects or symptomology.
4. **Venue.** The selection of the venue should depend on the agent identified. The extent of the scenario will be affected by the type of venue and its location. To ensure that participants are not overwhelmed, if a contagious agent is selected, consider placing the source of contamination in an area that does not attract a lot of people.