



# The 2014 Quadrennial Homeland Security Review

## Overview:

Four years ago, the Department of Homeland Security's first quadrennial review answered the question, "What is homeland security?", laying out the vision, five mission areas, and goals and objectives for homeland security.

This second quadrennial review reflects a more focused, collaborative Departmental strategy, planning, and analytic capability. The risk-informed priorities set forth in this Review will drive operational planning, as well as analysis of resource and capability options and tradeoffs over the next four years. The Review also recognizes the responsibility the Department shares with hundreds of thousands of people across the federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, the private sector, and other nongovernmental organizations, and provides a path forward for engaging in public-private partnerships. These are the people who regularly interact with the public, who are responsible for public safety and security, who own and operate our nation's critical infrastructure and services, who perform research and develop technology, and who keep watch, prepare for, and respond to emerging threats and disasters.

To access a copy of the 2014 QHSR, please visit [www.dhs.gov/QHSR](http://www.dhs.gov/QHSR).

## A Homeland Security Strategy for Countering Biological Threats and Hazards

**Biological threats and hazards—ranging from bioterrorism to naturally occurring pandemics—are a top homeland security risk. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) generally expects the risk of biological threats and hazards to increase over time, given trends such as increasing trade and travel and the growing accessibility of biotechnology. In the long term, unexpected or dramatic shifts in key areas, including biotechnology, global biosurveillance capability and response capacity, and disease prevention and treatment, may cause the risk to change. As such, these key areas present important opportunities for managing biological risk into the future. However, we are also confronted with the reality of resource constraints at all levels of government and, therefore, must address biological challenges in sustainable ways.**

### The Risk of Biological Threats and Hazards

Through an in-depth look at the risk associated with biological threats and hazards in the homeland security mission space, we identified four "priority biological threats and hazards" that pose particularly high risk to the Nation:

- Pathogens posing particular bioterrorism concerns (e.g., anthrax, plague, and smallpox), including enhanced and advanced pathogens;
- Emerging infectious diseases that are highly disruptive (e.g., viruses that could cause human pandemic);
- Animal diseases and plant pathogens or pests that are highly disruptive (e.g., foot-and-mouth disease); and
- Bioterrorist contamination of the food supply chain and water systems.

### Our Strategy to Manage Biological Risk

Our strategy is to prevent the occurrence of priority biological incidents, where possible; but, when unable to prevent, to stop priority biological incidents from overwhelming the capacity of our state, local, tribal, and territorial partners to manage and respond. To execute this strategy, we will collaborate with our partners to accomplish six goals that involve refinements to our collective homeland security policies, capabilities, and capacities:

- Prevent or deter the release or introduction, whether intentional or inadvertent, of priority biological threats and hazards in the United States;
- Improve risk-informed decision-making by ensuring decision makers at all levels across DHS and our partners are appropriately informed by a common understanding of the risk associated with priority biological threats and hazards;
- Detect and confirm priority biological incidents sufficiently early;
- Improve the confidence of our partners to act;
- Enable effective response to and recovery from priority biological incidents; and
- Maintain mission-essential functions during and after biological incidents.