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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Health Alert - Anthrax

(Las Vegas, Nev. – October 12, 2001) – The announcement of the fourth case of anthrax in the United States and the possibility of an exposure in Northern Nevada, is prompting the public to request antibiotics and/or testing for the disease. Currently there have been no cases of anthrax identified in Clark County.

The Health District is urging local residents to refrain from overloading the medical system, unless they have reason to believe they have been exposed to the bacteria that causes the disease.

As part of its preparedness efforts the Health District is disseminating information regarding anthrax to doctors. They are being advised to only prescribe antibiotics if deemed medically necessary and to test only if they have reason to believe a patient's symptoms are suggestive of the disease. Unnecessary testing could overwhelm the capacity of local and state laboratories and improper use of antibiotics can cause resistance to the disease the medication was meant to treat.

In order to help allay the fears of the public the Clark County Health District is in the process of preparing a disaster preparedness section for their website. Information is currently posted and additional information will be added to the site which may be accessed at www.cchd.org.