

THE BIOMEDICAL ADVANCED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (BARDA)



Research and Development that Saves Lives

Housed within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), BARDA plays a critical role in strengthening America's health security by driving the development of medical countermeasures against chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats, as well as pandemic influenza and emerging infectious diseases.

BARDA's investments have secured 95 FDA approvals, licensures, and clearances for life-saving products that protect U.S. citizens, military personnel, and first responders. These efforts have driven groundbreaking advancements in homeland security, ensuring our nation is ready for today's threats and resilient against future challenges. BARDA's impactful innovations include:



KEEPING US SAFE FROM CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ATTACKS

BARDA has supported the development of numerous countermeasures including burn treatments that respond to chemical and nuclear attacks, treatments to counteract radiation exposure, and an FDA-approved diagnostic for the bacteria that causes anthrax, in addition to an anthrax vaccine and multiple anthrax treatments to bolster the U.S. stockpile.



DIAGNOSING AND TREATING EBOLA

Following the last major Ebola virus outbreak in 2016, BARDA developed a vaccine, which was approved in 2019, as well as a rapid diagnostic test, which received FDA approval in 2020.



COMBATING ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

Antibiotic-resistant infections affect 2.8 million Americans and claim 35,000 lives each year, while six of the most alarming antimicrobial threats drive over \$4.6 billion in annual healthcare costs, according to CDC estimates. These "superbugs" make common infections harder—or sometimes impossible—to treat. To address this growing threat, BARDA has supported the development of new FDA-approved antibiotics, including treatments for serious abdominal infections caused by drug-resistant bacteria.



FIGHTING SMALLPOX

While smallpox has been eradicated, the threat of its use as a bioweapon remains. Stocks of the virus still exist in laboratories worldwide, and if released, the ramifications would be devastating. Smallpox is highly contagious and kills one-third of those infected. To fight smallpox, BARDA procured FDA approval of an antiviral treatment and fueled the manufacturing process to ensure it is quickly and reliably accessible to Americans in the event of an attack.

PROTECTING AMERICANS FROM SEPSIS

Sepsis is a life-threatening response to an infection common in hospitals and among immunocompromised populations. BARDA is developing antimicrobials, diagnostics, and therapeutics to reduce the threat of this deadly condition.



Sepsis costs Americans \$60 billion annually