



Single Use Healthcare Products

37 Springbrook Road, Morristown, NJ 07960

Phone (973) 326-8973/Fax (973) 326-8973

Fiber-Tec Customers and Friends:

Shortly after 911, smallpox, anthrax and other highly communicable and contagious diseases that could potentially be unleashed through bio-terrorist acts generated a lot of press. More recently, SARS and particularly aggressive strains of the flu have done the same. Fortunately, other than the post 911 anthrax scare and the flu, there have been no significant outbreaks or releases to date, but that does not mean we will be spared forever. As you evaluate your own preparedness regarding these and similar diseases in conjunction with Federal, State, and Local Governments, you may find yourself wondering whether your linen supply and/or laundry interface need to be considered as well. Specifically you might be looking to learn more about how or if single use linens and other single use products can protect against these risks.

Although we do not make recommendations relative to our single use linen products being used to counter these or other threats, the CDC has published guidelines relative to smallpox and there are several documents available on their web site <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/smallpox/index.asp> which provide guidance which seems appropriate for all contagious diseases.

When you access this web page, you will notice a series of topics on the left-hand margin. Under the topic Preparation and Planning you will find reference to the CDC's Smallpox Response Plan and Guidelines (Version 3.0). Under These Guidelines there are additional sub-topics, specifically Guide C relating to Infection Control and Quarantine and Guide F relating to Environmental Control. Guide C, the Infection Control and Quarantine Guidelines has several relevant sections. First, on page C-8 under Procedures for Isolation of Individuals, note Paragraph C for ambulances; on page C-10, note Paragraph I, nos. 4 and 5 and on Page C-11, note Article II, Paragraph D. In Guide F on Environmental Control, note particularly Paragraph F. I. Laundry: Textiles and Bedding. Although this material clearly indicates that containment and incineration of healthcare linens contaminated by smallpox is not mandated, complicated and strict laundering guidelines including the use of PPE by laundry workers is clearly mandatory. It would appear that because of this, laundering of reusable linen in the ordinary course during a disease outbreak would be time consuming and potentially more risky than using single use linen and incinerating/destroying same after use.

Further, under the topic Exposure Management (Preventing Transmission) you will be able to refer to the JAMA 1999 Consensus Statement: Smallpox as a biological weapon: Medical and Public Health management. Here you will find a discussion about the historical role laundries and laundry workers have played in the spread of smallpox in the

past.. see Epidemiology Paragraph 2, Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control, Paragraphs 1 and Paragraph 2, and Decontamination Paragraph 2. You will also note in this document on page C-10, Paragraph 5, it suggests using disposable materials whenever possible.

As you know the strength, feel and absorbency of Fiber-Tec single use linens are designed to look and perform as close to reusable linens as possible. Their cost effectiveness, especially in areas of high linen loss, is also well documented.

We stand ready to assist all our customers relative to any needs or concerns you may have. Feel free to call me or any of our sales representatives at any time.

Regards,

Edward J. Waite, III
Chairman & CEO