

**VX
FACT SHEET**

What is VX?

VX is a man-made chemical warfare agent or nerve agent. This toxic agent is an oily liquid that is amber in color, odorless, tasteless and takes a long time to evaporate.

How you can be exposed to VX?

The symptoms will depend on the route, amount and length of time of exposure to VX. You can be exposed by drinking water, eating food, or touching soil that has been contaminated with VX. If VX is released into the air, you can be exposed through inhaling, skin or eye contact. If the chemical has fallen on your clothes, you can expose other individuals to the toxic agent for about 30 minutes after contact.

How soon does an exposed person show symptoms?

Symptoms will appear within seconds after exposure to the vapor form of VX and within a few minutes to up to 18 hours after being exposed to the liquid form.

What are the immediate symptoms?

You may not know that you were exposed to VX because it has no odor. If you have been exposed to a low or moderate dose of VX through inhaling, ingesting, skin or eye contact, you may exhibit symptoms of drooling, a runny nose, watery eyes, eye pain, a lot of sweating, cough, chest tightness, fast breathing, diarrhea, confusion, weakness, headaches, nausea, vomiting, irregular heart beats and low or high blood pressure. If you are exposed to a large dose of VX, you may exhibit symptoms of loss of consciousness, seizures, and the inability to breathe possibly leading to death.

What are the long-term health effects?

Mild or moderately exposed people usually recover completely. Severely exposed people are not likely to survive.

What should you do if you think you have been exposed to VX?

If the VX was released outdoors, move away from the area to higher grounds.

If you think you have been exposed, move quickly to an area where fresh air is available. Remove your clothing by cutting them off the body; if possible do not pull the clothes over your head. Quickly wash your entire body with large amounts of soap and water. If your eyes are burning or your vision is blurred, rinse them with plain water for 10 to 15 minutes. If you wear contacts, wash your hands after removing contaminated clothes and then remove the contacts before rinsing your eyes.

If you wear eye glasses, remove and wash them with soap and water. You can put your eyeglasses back on after you wash them. Place your contaminated clothes and contact lenses into a plastic bag and seal. Place the bag into a second plastic bag and seal. If VX has been ingested, do not drink fluids or induce vomiting. **Call 911 for medical**

attention right away and removal of the contaminated items. Do not drive yourself to the hospital as you may become very ill on your way.

Where you can get more information on VX?

www.bt.cdc.gov

www.dshs.state.tx.us

www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/rtkweb/rtkhsfs.htm

Source of information

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)