

FACT SHEET – *Ricin*

RICIN IS A POISON

- Ricin poisoning is a deliberate act.
 - Ricin occurs naturally only in very small amounts.
 - Someone must work to get enough to poison people.
 - Accidentally getting poisoned is very unlikely.
- It can be a powder, pellet, mist, or liquid. It is made from the waste from making castor oil.
- It works by keeping the body from making proteins causing
 - cells to die
 - organs to stop working
 - death

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Frankfort, KY

<http://chfs.ky.gov/dph/preparedness>

Kentucky Regional Poison Center
Louisville, KY

EMERGENCY: 1-800-222-1222
Lake Cumberland District Health Dept.
(606) 678 – 4761

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Atlanta, GA

Toll free: 1-800-311-3435

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/ricin>

RICIN POISONING DOES NOT SPREAD FROM PERSON TO PERSON

- Ricin can get into the body by
 - breathing it in
 - swallowing it
 - having it injected
- If ricin is breathed in, there will likely be
 - coughing, difficulty breathing, and nausea within a few hours
 - more difficulty breathing, and blue skin, within the next few hours
- If poisoning occurs by swallowing ricin, there could be
 - vomiting and bloody diarrhea within a few hours
 - seizures and blood in the urine

FACT SHEET – *Ricin (continued)*

DOCTORS TREAT THE SYMPTOMS OF RICIN POISONING

- People might receive such care as
 - help with breathing
 - medicines to reduce swelling
 - liquids to replace what is lost
- There is no
 - easy, widely-used test for ricin poisoning
 - vaccine to prevent poisoning
 - antidote to stop the effects
- If you are where ricin is released
 - get to fresh air or stay where the air is fresh
 - remove your clothing
 - wash all over with soap and water