Manhattanville College- Reference Guide for Handling Chemical Threats and Attacks

Signs of a chemical release:

• Difficulty breathing
• Eye irritation
• Loss of coordination
• Nausea
• Burning sensation in nose, throat and lungs
• The presence of dead insects or birds
During a chemical attack:

If you are instructed to remain in your home or office building, you should:

• Close doors and windows and turn off all ventilation—including furnaces, air conditioners, vents and fans.

• Seek shelter in an internal room and take your disaster supplies kit.

• Seal the room with duct tape and plastic sheeting.

• Listen to your radio for instructions from authorities.
If you are caught in or near a contaminated area, you should:

• Move away immediately in a direction upwind of the source.
• Find shelter as quickly as possible.

After a chemical attack:

Decontamination is needed within minutes of exposure to minimize health consequences.

Decontamination guidelines are as follows:

• Remove all clothing and other items in contact with the Body.
• Decontaminate hands using soap and water.

• Remove eyeglasses or contact lenses. Put glasses in a pan of household bleach to decontaminate them, and then rinse and dry.

• Flush eyes with water.

• Gently wash face and hair with soap and water before thoroughly rinsing with water.

• Blot (do not swab or scrape) other areas likely to have been exposed with a cloth soaked in soapy water and rinse with clear water.

• Change into uncontaminated clothes and proceed to a medical facility for screening and professional treatment.