

# 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.