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CDC to Army Lab: 'Cease and Desist' Studying Deadly Germs

Wyland's Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases temporarily shuttered over safety concerns

By **Jenn Gidman**, Newser Staff
Posted Aug 6, 2019 7:33 AM CDT

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Biohazard suits hang inside a laboratory suite at the US Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases in Fort Detrick, Md., on Aug. 10, 2011. (AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

(NEWSER) – A "cease and desist" order from the Centers for Disease Control has been issued, a military biodefense lab has been shuttered, and "research is currently on hold" there, possibly for months. The issue: safety worries that cropped up over processes used to contain dozens of dangerous toxins and "special agents" (ie, ones that cause anthrax and Ebola) studied there. Specifically, the 900-employee US Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases in Fort Detrick, Md., has cited a lack of "sufficient systems in place to decontaminate wastewater" as one reason for the

shutdown, per a lab statement, with the CDC adding that "national security reasons" prevent it from releasing many more details. Lab rep Caree Vander Linden stresses to the [New York Times](#) that the public wasn't at risk (nothing escaped the lab environment) and that no employees have been hurt.

The [Frederick News-Post](#) first reported on the lab closure last week, which came after a CDC inspection in June in which "several areas of concern" were found, including the wastewater issue, a failure to follow protocol during certain processes, and no periodic recertification training for employees working in a biocontainment capacity. If issues with the chemical-based decontamination system can't be resolved, the lab might have to revert back to a heat-based system, which one Rutgers University bioweapons expert tells the *Times* could mean "very long delays and very high costs." A similar shuttering at the lab [happened a decade ago](#), after it was found pathogens being kept there weren't properly documented in the appropriate database. (A [microbiologist at the lab](#) was a prime suspect in the deadly 2001 anthrax attacks.)

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trailmix Aug 6, 2019 11:17 PM CDT
Why does this need to be in the news?
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Refrakitzation Aug 6, 2019 5:35 PM CDT
This is the mass biological leeyabrul-genocide wet dream the war monger gun nut sparky gophertooth scurity hut hut righties ejaculate to when plinking rounds in AOCs skull doesn't get them off anymore.
- n

Jay Jay Aug 6, 2019 2:54 PM CDT
If we are the so-called'Leaders of the World", then what do we say to the rest of the world. about research on such heinous substances....don't emulate us and research mass weapons of biological destruction? In other words, just do what we say, not what we do.

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