



Public Health Preparedness and Response

A health threat can appear at any moment, and America must be ready to respond. As America's health protection agency, CDC is ready 24/7 and able to rapidly deploy disease detectives, lifesaving vaccines and medicines, and other support during a health emergency. Whether natural disasters, disease outbreaks, or deliberate attacks occur, CDC provides critical science and actions, people, funds, and training to improve state and local preparedness capabilities.



Key Accomplishments 2015

- Deployed 50 vials of botulinum antitoxin to Ohio in about 10 hours to treat 18 people infected with foodborne outbreak of botulism.
- Established active monitoring for 62 American jurisdictions in 10 days to check on more than 26,000 travelers from countries in West Africa with Ebola outbreaks.
- Activated CDC's Incident Management System in the Emergency Operations Center for 3 simultaneous emergency responses: Polio, Ebola, and the Department of Defense anthrax sample investigation.
- Prepared logistics for and sent more than 1,900 staff and more than 32,000 pieces of equipment to West Africa to stop the Ebola outbreak.
- 94% of CDC's Public Health Emergency Preparedness awardees met the 45-minute target during notification drills that tested communications systems between CDC, on-call laboratorians, and on-call epidemiologists.



Workers at Costco practice dispensing medicines to people in an emergency.

Large Retailers Can Help Save Lives During Public Health Emergencies

In the event of a large-scale public health emergency, where would you go to get lifesaving medicines fast? How about a location you already know well—your local superstore? CDC has identified large-scale retailers as a key potential partner in helping dispense medications to the public during an emergency.

CDC worked with the Virginia Department of Public Health in 2015 to develop a pilot program with retail giant Costco to test dispensing medical countermeasures to the public. Costco's regional pharmacy staff exercised a local plan to dispense medication to nearly 200 public volunteers. The emergency scenario was based on a large-scale anthrax attack that would require mass distributing of antibiotics from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) managed by CDC. In such an emergency, states would receive the stockpiled medicines and then get them to people via pre-established "points of dispensing."

Anthrax exposure causes death in nearly every case if not treated quickly, making this pilot program a critical example of emergency preparedness. Costco has participated in similar programs before to protect its own employees in the event of a public health emergency. Most large-scale emergencies require effective coordination between the public health, health care, and private sectors. Part of CDC's expertise is developing large-scale public health solutions that can save lives in real world situations.



365 days
CDC's Emergency Operations Center operated 24/7 all of 2015 supporting the Ebola response.



29,000
CDC's Emergency Operations Center received 29,000 calls from doctors, public health agencies, and the public reporting public health threats and requesting assistance.



\$7 billion
CDC stockpiles \$7 billion worth of medicines and supplies to respond to infectious diseases, pandemic influenza, radiation/nuclear emergencies, chemical attacks, and natural disasters.



4,000
CDC supports 4,000 state and local workers who serve as first responders during emergencies in communities throughout America.