

# Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response Division of Strategic National Stockpile

## Role in Public Health Preparedness and Response

The mission of the Division of Strategic National Stockpile (DSNS) is to prepare and support partners and provide the right materiel at the right time to secure the nation's health. DSNS achieves this mission by:

- Operating and maintaining the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)
- Working within the Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasure Enterprise to ensure the most appropriate countermeasures are available for a variety of public health threats
- Creating pathways to quickly and efficiently move medical countermeasures to an area of need
- Providing technical assistance through guidance and training to state and local public health departments on how to receive, distribute, and dispense medical countermeasures
- Coordinating with public and private partners to build resilient communities and encouraging integrated response planning among public health, healthcare, and emergency management sectors

Medical countermeasures, when combined with federal, state, and local technical expertise to distribute and dispense them effectively to the public, ensure that communities are prepared and key medical supplies are available during public health emergencies.

## Operating the Strategic National Stockpile

The SNS is a national repository of large quantities of medicines, vaccines, and other medical supplies stored in strategic locations around the nation. These assets are designed to supplement state and local public health departments in the event of a large-scale public health emergency that causes local supplies to run out. Managing the procurement, storage, and transportation of supplies in the SNS involves monitoring the shelf-life of pharmaceuticals to ensure that they are kept within U.S. Food and Drug Administration potency limits; conducting

quality assurance practices; and ensuring that all SNS holdings are based on the latest scientific data, threat levels, and overall ability to deploy a public health emergency. SNS supplies include:



- **12-Hour Push Packages and Managed Inventory**

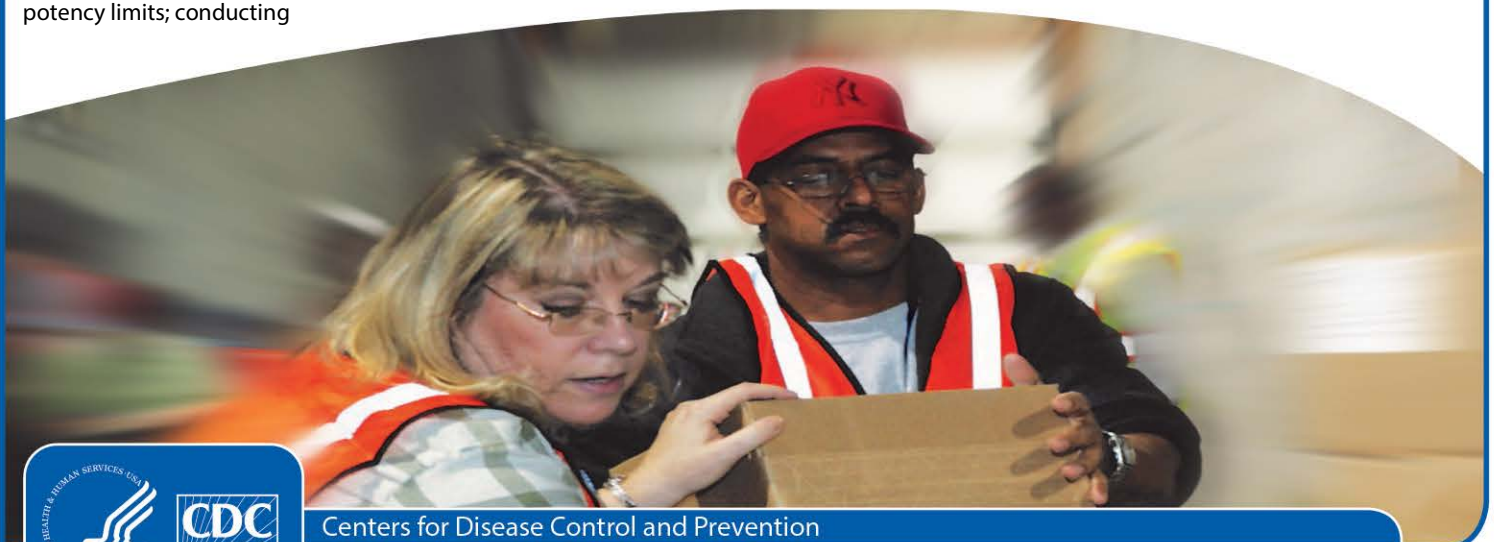
Once federal and state authorities agree that SNS assets are needed, a 12-Hour Push Package can be delivered anywhere in the United States within 12 hours of the decision to deploy. Each package contains 50 tons of a broad spectrum of medical assets. If the incident requires additional or more specific supplies, those can be delivered within 24 to 36 hours from SNS managed inventory. All states have plans to receive SNS product and distribute it as quickly as possible to local jurisdictions, which then dispense to the local community.

- **CHEMPACKS**

CHEMPACKs are containers of nerve-agent antidotes placed in secure locations at local levels to facilitate a rapid response to a chemical incident. More than 90% of the U.S. population is within one hour of a CHEMPACK location. Containers are located in more than 1,300 sites in all states, territories and island jurisdictions, and the District of Columbia.

- **Federal Medical Stations**

These modular and rapidly deployable stations provide a platform for the care of displaced persons who have non-acute health-related needs that cannot be met in a shelter for the general population during an incident. The stations are stocked with beds and supplies to care for up to 250 patients for 3 days, depending on configuration and location.



## Accomplishments

Ensuring that life-saving medical supplies are available during emergencies is a continuous process of acquiring and managing assets and providing technical assistance, tools, and guidance to ensure readiness. Key accomplishments to support this effort include:

- Building a network of strategically located warehouses across the United States to store and maintain a \$5.9 billion portfolio of antibiotics, antiviral drugs, vaccines, antidotes, antitoxins, medical supplies, and other pharmaceuticals.
- Increasing the supply of smallpox vaccine in the SNS from 15.4 million doses available in 2001 to more than 300 million full doses today – enough to vaccinate every American, if necessary.
- Deploying Federal Medical Stations to multiple natural disasters, including hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Dean, Gustav, Ike, Alex, Irene, Isaac, and Sandy as well as the 2009 and 2010 Red River flooding in North Dakota.
- Delivering 25% of the approximately 44 million regimens of antiviral drugs to all 50 states, four major metropolitan areas (Chicago, the District of Columbia, Los Angeles County, and New York City), and the U.S. insular areas in support of the nationwide response to the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic.
- Engaging with multiple communities of varying demographics (e.g., rural, urban, regional) to explore how these communities can develop coordinated and integrated plans that address a large surge to the healthcare system during a public health emergency.
- Expanding available community resources for a public health response by facilitating partnerships with the private sector and federal agencies.
- Leading activities on an initiative aimed to revise the SNS formulary to ensure that the SNS portfolio is balanced between threat preparedness and budget limitations.



## Providing Technical Assistance to State and Local Public Health Departments

DSNS helps prepare state and local health departments to respond effectively during an emergency when SNS assets are deployed. This preparation is accomplished by providing extensive training and technical assistance opportunities to state, tribal, territorial, and local public health departments and by facilitating public and private partnerships to foster community resilience and integrated planning efforts.

**Training and Exercises.** DSNS officials offer a variety of training courses designed to assist state and local planners and emergency responders with preparing for public health emergencies that involve receiving, distributing, and dispensing SNS product. Exercising with state and local partners gives DSNS staff the ability to partner with officials throughout the nation to achieve mutual exercise objectives.

**Deployable Teams of Experts.** In an emergency, DSNS may deploy teams of personnel to assist state and local partners in receiving, distributing, and dispensing medical countermeasures. The Stockpile Services Advance Group is comprised of experts on SNS response and state and local capabilities and can provide short-term technical assistance to meet a wide range of needs in a response. The Receive, Stage, and Store Task Force can assist with receipt, staging, onward movement, and re-supply of medical countermeasures, and the Federal Medical Station Strike Team is available to help state and local partners set-up, re-supply, and recover Federal Medical Station assets.

**Healthcare Preparedness.** DSNS' Healthcare Preparedness Activity (HPA) works to improve the healthcare delivery system's all-hazards preparedness response to public health threats and to integrate public health, healthcare, and emergency management into response planning efforts. Staff collaborates with federal agencies, state governments, medical societies, and other public and private organizations to promote integrated healthcare preparedness planning and engages with stakeholders across the country to improve healthcare preparedness and the integration of existing public health and healthcare resources. HPA accomplishes this by producing tools and guidance, coordinating with public and private partners, communicating with clinicians nationwide on current CDC guidance and events, and conducting workshops, stakeholder meetings, and exercises. For more on HPA, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/phpr/healthcare/>.

**Community Resilience.** DSNS' Community Resilience Activity (CRA) serves as point of contact for federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private-sector partners for medical countermeasure distribution and dispensing planning. CRA develops strategies and solutions to reduce the distribution and dispensing burden on state and local public health agencies and collaborates with CDC's Division of State and Local Readiness to encourage state and local jurisdictions to pilot and implement private-public partnerships for medical countermeasure distribution and dispensing needs.

For more information about CDC's emergency preparedness and response activities, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/phpr/>

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