

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 deliver critical medical assets to the site of a national emergency. DSNS achieves this mission by:

- Operating and maintaining the CDC Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)
- Providing technical assistance through guidance and training to state and local public health departments on how to receive, distribute, and dispense medical countermeasures

SNS assets, when combined with federal, state, and local technical expertise to manage and distribute them efficiently, help ensure that key medical materiel are available during emergencies.

Operating the Strategic National Stockpile

The SNS is a national repository of large quantities of medical countermeasures, 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 materials 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, the 12-Hour Push Packages can be delivered to any state in the continental 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 different supplies, they can be delivered within 24 to 36 hours from SNS's managed inventory. All states have plans to receive SNS supplies and distribute them as quickly as possible to local jurisdictions, who then dispense them to their communities.

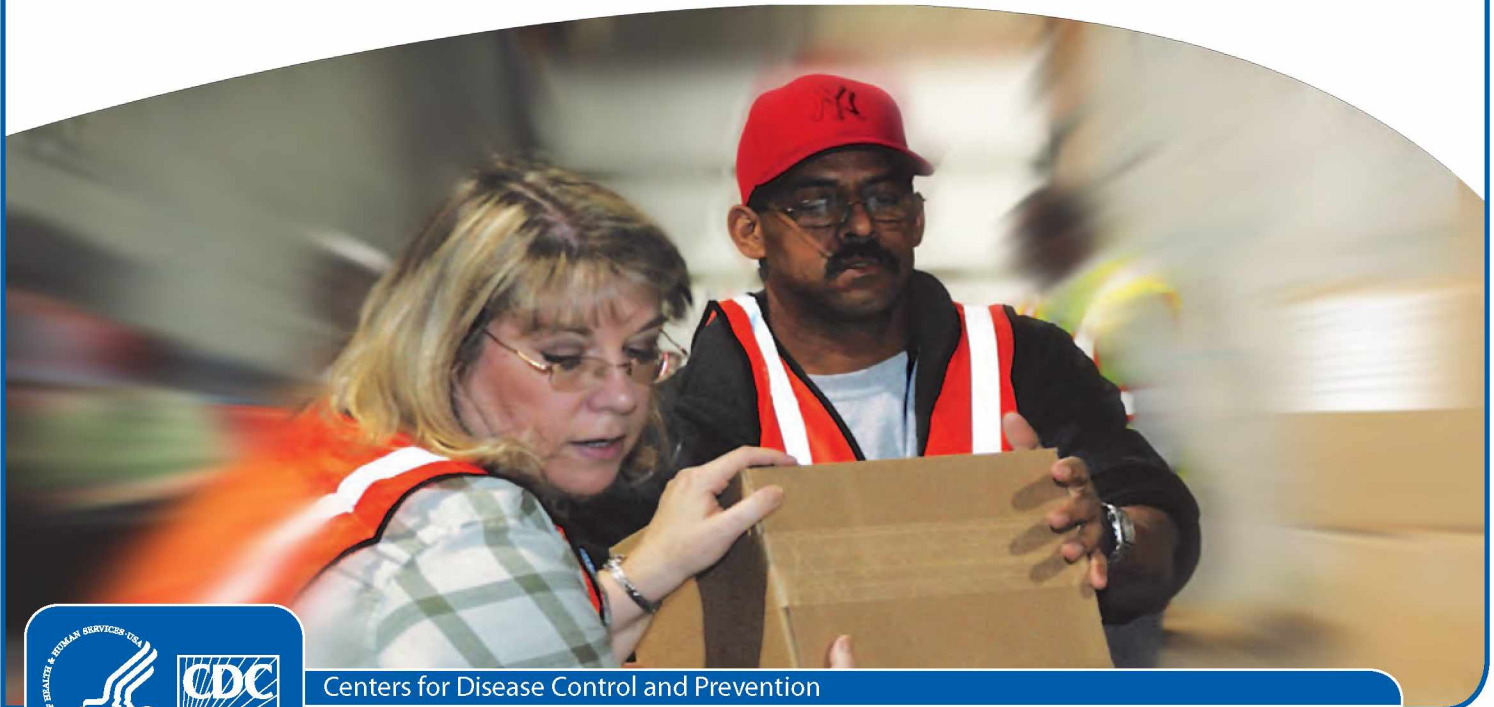


- **CHEMPACKS**

CHEMPACKs are containers of nerve-agent antidotes placed in secure locations at state and local levels to facilitate rapid response to an incident. More than 92% of the U.S. population is within a one-hour buffer of these supplies. Containers are located in more than 1,300 sites in all states and the District of Columbia.

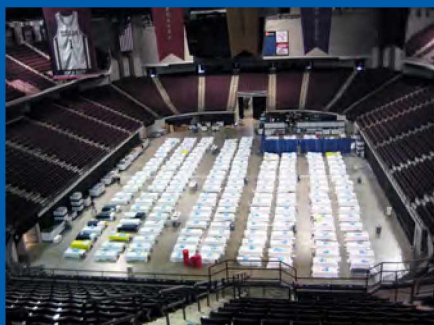
- **Federal Medical Stations**

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 up to three days.



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Accomplishments

Ensuring that key medical supplies are available during emergencies is a continuous process of acquiring and managing assets, providing technical assistance, and evaluating readiness. Recent key accomplishments to support this effort include:

- 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
- Increasing the number of antibiotic prophylactic regimens for anthrax in the SNS from 12 million regimens in 2003 to over 60 million today
- Increasing the number of 12-Hour Push Packages from 8 in 2001 to 12 today
- Deploying Federal Medical Stations to multiple natural disasters, including hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Dean, Gustav, and Ike, as well as the 2009 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



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. DSNS consultants routinely visit state, local, and large metropolitan health departments to help them plan for the receipt, distribution, and dispensing of assets specific to jurisdictional needs. DSNS also provides a team of public information and communications experts who assist state and local partners on developing and executing the public information and communications component of their SNS plans.

Medical Countermeasure Distribution and Dispensing Composite Measure. Beginning with the new Public Health Emergency Preparedness cooperative agreement for 2011-2016, DSNS has developed a composite measure for assessing the capacity and capability of project areas to distribute and dispense medical countermeasures. The measure includes the annual technical assistance review (TAR) along with drill and exercise requirements and will serve as a collective indicator of both planning efforts and the operational capability of states, directly funded localities, local planning jurisdictions, U.S. territories and freely associated states.

By including individual performance activities – specifically those surrounding drills and exercises – in the composite measure, federal and state preparedness leaders can better identify the gaps and gains achieved in individual public health planning. Those areas assessed by the TAR remain the same and include a review of the public health department's coordination with traditional and nontraditional community partners; the ability to receive, store, stage and distribute medical assets; the legal statutes that aid rapid dispensing of assets; and the type and frequency of training and exercises conducted, to name a few.

Electronic Technical Assistance. DSNS offers multiple channels for state and local SNS planners to receive electronic technical assistance at their convenience. DSNS maintains a password-protected SNS extranet site where guidance and information are posted, and offers both state and general email subscription lists that allow planners to pose and respond to questions from their counterparts. Other available resources include satellite broadcasts and videos, Microsoft SharePoint® sites, and public information and communication trainings.

Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI). CRI is a federally funded program designed to better prepare 72 major U.S. metropolitan statistical areas to receive, distribute and dispense medical countermeasures to their entire populations in a short time in response to large-scale public health emergencies. The CRI metropolitan areas cover more than 57 percent of the U.S. population, and at least one CRI metropolitan statistical area can be found in each state.

Training and Exercises. DSNS officials offer several courses designed to assist state and local planners with preparing for health emergencies that involve the SNS. These courses prepare state and local emergency responders to manage SNS assets during a public health emergency. Exercising with state and local partners gives DSNS staff the ability to partner with officials throughout the nation to achieve mutual exercise objectives..

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

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