

STRATEGIC NATIONAL STOCKPILE (SNS)

The Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) is a federal program that was established in 1999 by Congress; it is administered, owned and maintained by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The SNS contains large quantities of medicine and medical supplies to protect the American public if there is an emergency severe enough to cause local resources to run out. Supplies and technical assistance reach an affected area quickly, safely and they are well organized. The overwhelmed jurisdiction does not pay for SNS assets.



If a public health incident is severe enough, it may trigger the procedure for requesting SNS assets. In many public health situations, the requisition will be for preventive medication or vaccine (also called “prophylaxis”). Using a mass dispensing or vaccination strategy, prophylaxis may be given out at “Points of Dispensing (PODs)” to those who need it.

PODs are categorized as open (for members of the public) or closed (for pre-designated groups). *More information on PODs can be found in the next section of this book.* Agencies (e.g. hospitals, fire, police, long-term care, etc.) needing a quantity of SNS supplies to respond to an incident will request them from the LHD. Any agency wishing to act as a POD needs to consult the LHD in advance. In addition to planning guidance, the LHD will give the agency specific instructions for picking up emergency medication/supplies.

4 MAIN TYPES OF SNS ASSETS

12 Hour Push Package - a shipment of pharmaceuticals, antidotes and medical supplies that can address a variety of public health emergencies in the early hours of an event. Strategically stored in locations across the United States.



12 Hour Push Pack
www.bt.cdc.gov/stockpile

CHEMPACK - pre-positioned chemical/nerve-agent antidotes intended for immediate need by first responders, not for the general population.



CHEMPACK
emergency.cdc.gov

Federal Medical Stations - a 250 bed unit developed for set-up in an existing facility; designed to hold persons for quarantine, provide sub-acute care, relieve hospital surge, triage persons, etc.

Managed Inventory - a shipment of pharmaceuticals or medical supplies that are tailored to address specific needs produced by the emergency.

SNS Request Procedure

A request for SNS assets is made as a result of communication between local public health, emergency management and political authorities. Assets requested for a public health disaster would typically involve oral medicines, vaccines, and ancillary supplies. In the County, a public health disaster can be declared by the Chairman of the County Board, based on input from the LHD.

