THE STRATEGIC NATIONAL STOCKPILE (SNS)

The CDC’s Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) is a repository of antibiotics, chemical antidotes, antitoxins, vaccines, antiviral drugs and other life-saving medical materiel. The SNS mission is to deliver critical medical assets to the scene of a national emergency.

During a public health emergency, state and local public health systems may be overwhelmed. The SNS is designed to supplement and re-supply state and local public health agencies in the event of an emergency within the United States or its territories.

The SNS is organized for flexible response.

If the threat posed by a public health emergency is unknown, the first line of support lies with the 12-hour Push Packages – so called because they can be delivered anywhere in the United States and/or its territories within 12 hours of the federal decision to deploy. The 12-hour Push Packages are 50-ton caches of pharmaceuticals, antidotes and medical supplies designed for rapid deployment. Each push package is stocked with a broad spectrum of materiel to combat any number of public health threats.

If the nature of the public health emergency is known, CDC officials can send Managed Inventory (MI) to combat the threat. MI is maintained at facilities throughout the United States by either CDC or contract vendors. MI is also used to re-supply deployed 12-hour Push Packages. MI can be expected to arrive within 24 to 36 hours of a federal deployment decision.

DSNS is part of a nationwide preparedness program for state and local health care providers, first responders and governmental partners. To better prepare SNS stakeholders for receipt of federal medical materiel, DSNS officials provide training on a myriad of topics to include warehouse design, distribution site layout and preparedness. Additionally, DSNS professionals offer assistance and advice to state and local governments on how to best maintain medical materiel stockpiles. Finally, DSNS and CDC staff members provide guidance on ways state and local governments can better respond to public health emergencies.

During an emergency, a state determines if there is a need for SNS assets and requests federal assistance. Discussions between state and federal organizations are initiated and a decision is made at the federal level to deploy assets. DSNS works with federal, state and local health officials to determine what assets are needed. The material is shipped to the state’s Receipt, Stage and Store (RSS) site where state and local authorities will distribute further the countermeasures.

DSNS is led by Director Greg Burel, Deputy Director Steve Adams, Associate Director for Science Sue Gorman, and Medical Officer Richard McCluskey. Their principal advisors are Todd Piester (Response Branch), Shirley Mabry (Logistics Branch) and Stephanie Dulin (Program Preparedness Branch).

SNS on the web at www.bt.cdc.gov/stockpile.