

Iowa's Strategic National Stockpile Program Summary

An act of terrorism, an epidemic or pandemic disease outbreak, or a large scale natural disaster targeting the U.S. population will require rapid access to large quantities of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies. Few states or local governments have the resources to create sufficient stockpiles to combat such public health emergencies on their own. Therefore, a national stockpile, and a process to obtain additional assets has been created as a resource for all.

In 1999 Congress charged the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with the establishment of the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile (NPS). The initial mission of the NPS was focused primarily on terrorist events and providing a re-supply of large quantities of essential medical material to states and communities during an emergency.

In March of 2003, the NPS became the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) program with an expanded mission. Most recently the SNS Program was granted Division status within the CDC. Today the mission of the Division of the SNS (DSNS) is the support of any public health emergency that rapidly depletes state or local resources.

The DSNS oversees a national repository of medical assets that includes such items as: antibiotics, chemical antidotes, antitoxins, life-support medications, IV administration, airway maintenance supplies, and medical/surgical items. The SNS assets are designed to supplement and/or re-supply state and local governments in the event of a national emergency anywhere and at anytime within the U.S. or its territories.

Each US State and Territory has partnered with the CDC for the development, evaluation, and implementation of SNS plans specific to each state or territory. SNS plans outline the requesting, delivery, distribution, dispensing, and recovery of federally deployed medical assets. The Iowa Department of Public Health, in collaboration with multiple state, local, and private agencies and organizations, has developed plans and procedures specific to the SNS for Iowa. These plans and procedures assist in protecting the health of all citizens located within Iowa's borders during a large-scale public health emergency.