

The Strategic National Stockpile: Emergency Mass Medication Dispensing

The Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) is a national program that provides large quantities of medicine and medical supplies to protect the American public if there is a public health emergency (terrorist attack, flu outbreak, earthquake) severe enough to exhaust local supplies. Once Federal and local authorities agree that the SNS is needed, assets will be delivered to any state in the U.S. within 12 hours. Every state has plans to receive and distribute SNS medicine and medical supplies to local communities as quickly as possible. Medications are provided at Points of Dispensing (POD); public dispensing centers that are located in pre-determined sites throughout the state. Maine CDC, community leaders and local emergency management have defined sites that will be announced to the public at the time they are opened.

The Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) is a key SNS activity that focuses on mass-dispensing of emergency medications in each state’s most populated cities. In Maine, CRI is centered in Portland and will expand to two other locations within the next year.

The Maine CDC, Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness manages the SNS program for Maine.

