

What SNS Means to You

Pills to People

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has large quantities of emergency lifesaving medicines and supplies to protect Americans if there is a public health emergency, such as a terrorist attack, an outbreak of a contagious disease, a natural disaster, or when someone purposely spreads germs or chemicals to make people sick. Such situations are severe enough to quickly exceed local supplies. This reserve supply is referred to as the Strategic National Stockpile or SNS. Depending on the type of emergency, the SNS will deliver antibiotics, antivirals, vaccines, and/or other medical items to reduce the risk associated with the type of emergency.

The SNS is strategically stored in many secure locations around the country. It is designed for flexible response. Stockpiles can be shipped anywhere in the U. S. within 12 hours. Local communities are prepared to receive SNS medicine and supplies from the state to make them readily available to residents.



HOW THE SNS IS DEPLOYED

To receive SNS assets, the office of Idaho's Governor will request the deployment of the SNS assets from the CDC or the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). HHS, CDC, and other federal officials will evaluate the situation and determine



a prompt course of action. HHS will transfer the authority for the SNS material to the state and local authorities once it arrives in Idaho. SNS technical assistants will remain on site to assist and advise state and local officials in putting the SNS assets to prompt and effective use.

HOW SNS MEDICATION IS DISTRIBUTED

When Idaho receives the SNS shipments, emergency response workers will immediately deliver the supplies and medication directly to the communities that need them. Local public health districts will set up medication dispensing centers (also known as Points of Dispensing or PODs) quickly and in numerous geographic locations where residents can pick up emergency medications and treatment advice as soon as possible. These PODs are often set up in large public buildings such as schools, arenas, or churches which can support many workers and clients over a long period of time. Southwest District Health (SWDH) has made agreements to utilize these facilities in such times of need in numerous locations within Adams, Canyon, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, and Washington Counties.

WHERE DO I GO?

SWDH will announce when medication dispensing centers will open, where the sites are located in southwest Idaho, directions to the sites, operating hours, what to bring to the site, and what to expect when you arrive. In most cases these sites will not be made public until an emergency occurs. You will then be able to determine the facility nearest you.

- ➔ **MEDICINES GIVEN AT THE PODS WILL BE FREE.**
- ➔ PODs will be easy to find and can take care of many people.
- ➔ Federal, state, and local authorities are working together to ensure that sufficient supplies of SNS medicines will get to Idaho quickly and be available for everyone who needs them.
- ➔ Depending on the type of emergency, one person may be able to pick up medications for a household or group.
- ➔ PODs are designed to dispense protective medication only and are not designed to treat ill patients. Alternative sites will be identified for those ill.



