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## COUNTY OF DELAWARE GOVERNMENT CENTER BUILDING 201 W. FRONT STREET MEDIA, PENNSYLVANIA

AREA CODE 610-891-4931  
FAX NUMBER 610-566-3947  
E-MAIL: [delcopr@co.delaware.pa.us](mailto:delcopr@co.delaware.pa.us)

Department of Public Relations  
William A. Lovejoy, Jr.  
Director

For Immediate Release  
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Contact: Trish Cofield  
Communications Officer  
610-891-4943

### **Frequently asked questions about the Strategic National Stockpile Implementation Plan**

#### **What is the purpose of the SNS plan?**

The purpose is to provide medication for treatment and/or prevention to the 550,000 residents of the county within 48 hours should it be needed in response to a pandemic or other large scale event.

#### **What is a Strategic National Stockpile?**

The Strategic National Stockpile is a federal emergency response program managed collaboratively by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The SNS is a national repository of antibiotics, chemical antidotes, antitoxins, life-support medications, IV administration, airway maintenance supplies and medical/surgical items.

In the event of a major public health emergency, the SNS is designed to provide medical supplies to counties at the request of the state governor. Examples of a public health emergency include pandemic influenza, a terrorist attack using chemicals, an industrial accident or a natural disaster.

Because the SNS has special buying capabilities, they can supply large amounts of medical supplies, vaccines and medical equipment. The SNS is stored in locations across the country to ensure fast delivery to areas in need.

Once Federal and local authorities agree that the SNS is needed, medicine will be delivered to any state in the U.S. within 12 hours.

#### **When will the SNS Plan be put into action?**

It is up to the Pennsylvania governor to request release of SNS supplies to the county. When a public health emergency is reported to the state level, through health agencies or the Emergency Operations Center, the state will request SNS supplies. At that point, the county will implement its SNS Plan to distribute the medical supplies to residents.

#### **What type of situation would prompt implementation of the SNS Plan?**

Delaware County officials would implement the SNS Plan in recognition of a pandemic or other public health emergency within the county. A pandemic can be something naturally occurring, such as Avian flu. It can also be caused by a terrorist incident, an industrial accident, or a catastrophic flood or earthquake.

#### **How do people get the medication?**

The medicine in the SNS is free for everyone. The Points of Distribution (PODs) for medication will be throughout the resident's local school district. Residents can find out how to get medicine by watching TV, listening to the radio, reading the newspaper, checking the community website or learning from trusted community leaders. Once residents get this information, they should report to their local POD site for medication.

## **How do people get the medication? Continued...**

The Delaware County Office of Emergency Management will activate the Points of Distribution (PODs), which largely consist of 16 locations within local school districts. Through various methods of communication, residents will be instructed to report to the PODs to receive medication.

Hospitals will remain focused on treating the ill and injured and are NOT primary points for dispensing SNS materials. Through various communication outlets, the head of households will be notified of their POD area and will be sent to pick up the medication for their household. If a vaccine is required that is a non-pill, the head of household will be notified by communication outlets regarding the proper protocol.

## **What else do I need to know about the medicines in the SNS?**

- The medicine is FREE for everyone.
- The SNS has enough stockpiled medication to protect people in several large cities at the same time.
- Local Communities are prepared to receive SNS medicine and medical supplies from the state to provide to everyone in the community who needs them.

## **Where can I get more information?**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

Pennsylvania Department of Health: [www.health.state.pa.us](http://www.health.state.pa.us).