



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Michigan Strategic National Stockpile (MISNS)

What is the Strategic National Stockpile?

The Strategic National Stockpile, or SNS, is a federal program that provides large amounts of medicines and other life-saving medical supplies during a public health emergency. The SNS is kept by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and can be delivered to any state or territory in the United States within twelve hours.

Does Michigan have a stockpile program?

In Michigan, there is the Michigan Strategic National Stockpile, or MISNS, program. The MISNS is managed by the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH). During an emergency that requires a lot of medicine or medical supplies, the MISNS program would manage the supplies received from the CDC. The MISNS staff also assists local health departments and hospitals with their own SNS plans.

How do the SNS, MISNS and the local health departments/hospitals work together to get important medicines to people during an emergency?

In the event of a public health emergency in Michigan, our own supplies of medicine would be used first. If it were determined that those supplies would likely run out, the Governor could request the federal SNS. SNS supplies would be delivered to the State of Michigan. The MISNS team, with help from trained volunteers, would receive the supplies and deliver them to local health departments and hospitals. Once those supplies arrive at the local health departments and hospitals they can be dispensed to the public.

In what types of situations would the MISNS or SNS be used?

The SNS or MISNS would be used during any emergency where the health of Michigan's citizens is affected, and when local supplies of medicines are not enough to protect everyone who needs them. Specific types of emergencies might include a flu pandemic, like H1N1 in 2009, or a bioterrorist attack, like the anthrax letters in October of 2001.

How would Michigan get the supplies from the SNS?

Michigan can get supplies from the SNS in one of two ways. The SNS can send a *12-hour Push Package*, which is a mix of different medicines and supplies that arrive within twelve hours. The other way Michigan can get medications and supplies is directly from drug companies that CDC has a contract with. The benefit of the contracts is that Michigan can get exactly what and how much it needs.



If there were a public health emergency in Michigan, how long would it take for the SNS to arrive?

Once officials decide that the SNS is needed, a 12-hour Push Package is sent and will arrive here within twelve hours. MDCH and local health departments plan and prepare for a “worst-case scenario” in which medications could be given out to Michigan residents in as little as 48 hours.

What is a 12-hour Push Package?

The 12-hour Push Package is the part of the SNS that is sent first, when the exact cause of the emergency is not yet known. It contains a mix of different medicines, vaccines, and medical supplies such as gloves and masks. Push packages are already put together and stored in safe warehouses around the country. They are ready to be shipped at a moment’s notice and can arrive anywhere in the United States within twelve hours.

Why does it take up to twelve hours for a 12-hour Push Package to arrive? Won’t people need their medicine before twelve hours?

It is important to remember that the federal SNS is designed to add to the medical supplies that the State and local health departments already have, and that it is the State and local supplies that are used first.

Most of the twelve hours that it takes for the SNS to arrive are spent loading the plane(s) and trucks that deliver the SNS supplies.

In some cases it is important to have medications on hand and ready to give to people very quickly. A chemical release or nerve-agent attack is an example. For situations like these there are other plans in place. CHEMPACK is a program from CDC that keeps antidotes stored in local communities so they can be used very quickly. Another example is MEDDRUN (Michigan Emergency Drug Delivery Resource Utilization Network). MEDDRUN provides medicines and supplies that can be used to treat up to 100 people. They are delivered by plane or ambulance and can arrive almost anywhere in Michigan in about one hour.

In an emergency, how will my family and I get our medication?

Local health departments have plans in place to open *dispensing sites* that are located around the community. If there were an actual public health emergency where you live, and large numbers of persons needed medication, announcements would be made on local TV and radio stations and in newspapers about when and where you should go to receive those medications.

Many local health departments in Michigan have also been planning with large businesses, universities, and other organizations to serve as *alternative dispensing sites*. These sites would receive medications from the local health department directly and provide them to their own employees, students and their



family members. If you work or attend one of these organizations, in a public health emergency, you would be notified by your organization. Not all large employers or schools participate in an alternative dispensing site program.

Many local health departments in Michigan have other types of alternate dispensing sites as well, such as mobile (delivery) or drive-through dispensing sites. Again, in the event of an emergency, your local health department will provide information to the community on exactly how, where and when the medication will be provided.

What if I have family members that are not able to get to a dispensing site, will I be able to pick up medication for them?

Yes, the head of household (aged 18 or older) may pick up medications for up to ten household members (related or otherwise) by providing a list that contains the following information for each person: name, date of birth, mother's maiden name, allergies, medical conditions, and current medications. Additionally, if the individual on the list is under 12 years of age, the child's weight must be included.

How do SNS supplies get to the Upper Peninsula?

While ground transportation is the primary option, the MISNS program has a strong partnership with the Michigan chapter of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP). During an emergency the CAP may be asked to fly SNS supplies to the Upper Peninsula (U.P.). During H1N1, the CAP delivered medical supplies to seven sites across the U.P. Round-trip, it took the CAP less than nine hours.

What other partnerships does the MISNS program have?

The MISNS program has partnered with the Michigan Pharmacist Association, the Michigan Public Health Institute, Michigan State Police, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the Department of Technology, Management, and Budget, and the Civil Air Patrol, to name a few. At the city/county level, health departments and healthcare coalitions work closely with local emergency management, tribes, private agencies, and volunteer groups.

What if the SNS runs out of medical supplies?

The CDC has plans and contracts with drug companies in place in case the SNS needs to be replenished.

Where is the SNS kept?

The SNS supplies are located in safe warehouses around the United States. CDC picked these sites because they provide good storage and can be easily shipped by plane or truck. For security reasons,



the locations of these warehouses are not disclosed. In Michigan, SNS assets are kept in safe warehouses.

How are the medications and supplies kept fresh?

Federal SNS supplies are stored in warehouses that are kept at the right temperature and humidity. CDC makes sure that the supplies are rotated and kept fresh. Michigan's supplies are also stored this way.

What public health emergencies has the SNS been used for?

CDC sent out the SNS more than 15 times since the program first started in 1999. This includes hurricanes Katrina and Rita (2005), Gustav and Ike (2008), and Irene (2011). Also, in 2009 during the H1N1 flu outbreak, CDC shipped anti-flu drugs, gloves, and masks to each state.

Has the MISNS ever responded to a public health emergency?

Yes, during H1N1 the MISNS program distributed supplies received from the CDC to local health departments and hospitals. MDCH tests the MISNS programs ability to receive and ship supplies regularly.

How can I become a disaster volunteer in Michigan?

What we do during emergencies could not be done without the help of disaster volunteers. If you are interested in being a volunteer, visit the MI Volunteer Registry website. You can get more information and register as a volunteer at <https://mivolunteerregistry.org>.

How do I get more information about MISNS and preparedness in Michigan?

More information is available on the web:

- MISNS and other State public health preparedness programs: <http://www.michigan.gov/ophp>
- General and family preparedness information: <http://www.michigan.gov/prepare>

You can also contact trusted sources, such as the community groups you belong to or your medical provider for additional information on staying healthy during an emergency.