



## Talking Points: State Role in National Pharmaceutical Stockpile Plan

**Introduction:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) maintains a large stockpile of medications and medical supplies for use in case a state experiences a large unusual disease outbreak or other public health emergency, including a bioterrorism attack. The National Pharmaceutical Stockpile (NPS) includes eight so called “push-packages” at strategic, undisclosed locations around the country. Push packages would be delivered within 12 hours of a federal decision to approve a request for the NPS from the governor of any state. The NPS was deployed for the first time when it was sent to New York City after the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center.

- The Department of Health has led the development of the Washington state plan for receiving and managing the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile, which will become part of the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.
- This plan would be activated when an event occurs which appears will exhaust state and local supplies of drugs or medical supplies. The steps:
  - In consultation with local counterparts, state health and emergency management recommend that the Governor ask the CDC to deploy the NPS push-package.
  - State health officials send staff to the NPS arrival airport; staff prepares to receive, repackage, and distribute the needed pharmaceuticals and supplies to dispensing sites.
  - Within 12 hours of CDC’s approval of the Governor’s request, the NPS push-package arrives at a designated airport within the state.
- Once the NPS push package arrives, a Department of Health representative will inventory and sign for it.
- State staff rapidly repackages the medications into individual prescription size packets for distribution to affected cities and counties.
- Cities and counties distribute the medications to their residents.
- Medical supplies that are contained in the push-packages will be distributed from the airfield directly to hospitals and clinics that are responding to the event.
- Additional supplies and drugs from the stockpile would arrive in the hours and days following the deployment of the initial push package.

More information on the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile is available from the CDC Web site: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

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