



## South Central Mountain Regional Task Force

### **Strategic National Stockpile: Point of Dispensing (POD) Program**

The CDC's Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) has large quantities of medicine and medical supplies to protect the public in the event of a public health emergency (terrorist attack, flu outbreak, earthquake). If requested by the Governor, supplies are delivered within 12 hours and redistributed within a 48-96 hour period. The medicine in the SNS is free for everyone. The SNS, however, is a replacement, not a first response tool, and supplies pharmaceuticals to hospitals, special populations and Point of Dispensing (POD) sites.

#### **What is a POD?**

PODs are fixed locations designed to provide medicines to "well" individuals. However, contingency plans are in place to transport symptomatic individuals to hospitals from PODs. POD facilities are identified in each county to service up to 20,000 people, and operate on 12-hour shifts.

#### **Who staffs a POD?**

Staff are pre-identified and trained to operate at the POD, and both workers and their families receive initial doses of medications. A POD activation flow chart is found with this Fact Sheet (see reverse). Many PODs are located at schools, and both school staff, as well as other interested community members are encouraged to volunteer to assist with mass medication distribution through local PODs. In addition to those with medical operations training, support personnel, including logistics personnel, office staff and teachers (in particular language, science and mathematics teachers), are needed to staff PODs. All interested individuals can register for this task with POD site managers or the County Emergency Management Agency. POD workers and their families receive doses of medication first! Completing training will list you as a POD volunteer with your County EMA and all are encouraged to volunteer to support your community in the event the SNS POD Plan is activated in Pennsylvania.

#### **Where can I acquire additional information?**

For additional information contact the County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) or:

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## South Central Mountain Regional Task Force POD Activation: Flow Chart

