

OVERVIEW

The dispensing of antibiotics, immunizations, and/or biologics to large numbers of individuals in a disaster, public health emergency, or bioterrorism event requires advance emergency preparedness and assurance that the necessary resources are available. Local Public Health Departments must face the possibility that Federal resources may not be available or may be significantly delayed if multiple treatment sites (local, State, and Federal) are needed simultaneously. Good advance planning on the local.

OBJECTIVES

- Provide emergency medicines, vaccines, and pharmaceutical/medical supplies during emergency response.
- Maintain a County stockpile of emergency vaccines and medicines.
- Coordinate with local public and private pharmacies to maintain supplies and obtain additional supplies.

DEFINITION

- This protocol includes procedures to provide emergency medicine, vaccines, and pharmaceutical/medical supplies for emergency response.

STAFFING

- Public Health Pharmacy Personnel
- Medical and Health Operational Area Coordinator
- Operational Area Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
- Public Health Department EOC

TAB L

PHARMACY / PHARMACEUTICALS

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Tab C, Casualty Management

Alameda County National Pharmaceutical Stockpile (NPS) plan (in development)

URLs:

CDC Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Index of Federal, State and Local bioterrorism plans:
www.bt.cdc.gov/Planning/index.asp

Handbooks/Manuals:

Receiving, Distributing and Dispensing the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile. Version 9 draft, CDC.

National Pharmaceutical Stockpile Program (general information):
www.cdc.gov/nceh/nps/default.htm

County Plans:

ALCO Plan for Requesting, Receiving, Staging and Distributing the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile (Draft dated 6/02)

PRE-EVENT ACTIONS

- Develop a comprehensive database that identifies all pharmacies, pharmaceutical vendors, and warehouses within Alameda County and in the Bay Area Region.
- Develop an online survey process to determine the availability of medications, medical supplies, biologics, and vaccines that might be needed in the event of a disaster, public health emergency, or bioterrorism event.
- Identify the availability of medications, biologics, and vaccines that are available through the Metropolitan Medical Response System (Oakland and Fremont).
- Complete a survey of all hospital pharmacies to determine the availability of medications, biologics, vaccines, and medical supplies that might be needed in a disaster, public health emergency, or bioterrorism event.
- Develop an inventory tracking system that can be utilized to deploy medications, vaccines, and medical supplies to prophylactic treatment sites and can be used for billing purposes.
- Develop the Information Systems infrastructure necessary to maintain all databases.
- Secure enough medication, vaccines, biologics, and medical supplies to treat 20,000 people for at least two days.
- Identify a site (at least 5,000 square feet to receive and store and secure the above resources and to receive and store resources from the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile (NPS).
- Arrange for security for site with appropriate law enforcement officials.
- Develop a training plan to inform staff and community partners of what is in the NPS and how to dispense resources.

EVENT ACTIONS

1. The Health Officer, in conjunction with the Director of the Alameda County Division of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention (DCDCP), will determine the need for emergency immunization or prophylactic treatment.
2. The Health Officer will advise the Public Health Department Director, Agency Head, and the Board of Supervisors of the need for emergency immunization or prophylaxis.
3. The Health Officer will request activation of the DOC and EOC if both are not already activated.
4. The Health Officer will request that the DOC determine the amount of medications, medical supplies, vaccines, and biologics needed, and determine the availability in storage and, if needed, in pharmacies, hospitals, and pharmaceutical warehouses in Alameda County and the Bay Area Region.

5. The DOC will advise the EOC of their findings, and the EOC Medical/Health Branch will request shipment of the needed amount of medications, medical supplies, vaccines, and biologics to a pre-identified central dispensing area.
6. The Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) notifies the California Department of Health Services of a contact point person to serve as the stockpile liaison.
7. The ACPHD will assign a Site Coordinator at the central distribution site and a minimum of two additional staff to assist with distribution and tracking. If possible, a minimum of one pharmacist will be assigned to the central distribution site. If necessary, the Health Officer will ask the Department of Health Service (DHS) to request that the Governor waive pharmacist dispensing regulations.
8. ACPHD staff will receive supplies and enter them into an inventory database.
9. The EOC will request law enforcement to deploy personnel to provide security to the distribution area and to transport supplies, medication, vaccines, and biologics in secure vehicles if necessary.
10. ACPHD staff will establish reporting requirements of preventive treatment centers (PTCs) and inform them of these requirements.
11. Warehouse staff will dispense supplies as requested through the EOC and keep them advised of inventory status.
12. Warehouse staff will ensure proper storage and transport of medications, supplies, vaccines, and biologics.
13. The EOC will request that the Oakland and Fremont Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) deliver available medications, medical supplies, vaccines, and biologics to the central distribution center if needed.
14. The EOC will notify the DHS of the need for mutual aid if local/regional supplies are being depleted.
15. The DHS will determine the need to request the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile (NPS), or to deploy supplies, medications, vaccines, and/or biologics to the County if the NPS is already in the state (See Appendix LI, NPS Alameda County Procedure).
16. The DHS will request that Governor make an NPS request of the CDC if needed.
17. The EOC will advise the DHS of the site to receive the NPS.
18. ACPHD staff will receive the NPS package and enter it into the inventory system.

POST-EVENT ACTIONS

1. ACPHD staff will close the central distribution site and pack up equipment and supplies.
2. The ACPHD will debrief the staff.
3. ACPHD staff will produce and after-action report and distribute it as requested.

NATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL STOCKPILE ALAMEDA COUNTY PROCEDURE

- The State receives and allocates (breaks down) stockpile resources.
- Alameda County has resources to treat 20,000 people for at least two days.
- The Health Officer identifies a central site to receive the stockpile. The site must be at least 5,000 square feet.
- Distribution sites are the same as those identified as prophylaxis/immunization sites.
- An inventory system is developed to track the distribution of the stockpile. (To be developed.)
- The ACPHD works with the Sheriff's Department to ensure security and transport of pharmaceuticals.
- Requests for supplies at prophylaxis/immunization sites are managed from the Operational Area EOC.
- The ACPHD notifies the California DHS of a contact point/person to serve as the stockpile liaison.
- The ACPHD assigns a site coordinator at the central stockpile distribution site and a minimum of two additional staff to assist with distribution and tracking.
- A training plan is developed to inform staff and community partners of what is in the stockpile. (To be developed.)
- Following the initial pharmacy assessment, pharmacy employees examine each container to determine whether the contents are secure and sealed. Discarded material is swept to one side and contained. Barrier tape or other precautions are taken to indicate that the supplies are not usable for emergency response.