



Strategic National Stockpile

The Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) is a supply of life-saving pharmaceuticals and medical supplies, managed by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for use in a public health emergency. Many of the supplies are primarily designed and resourced to address discrete events like smaller, limited displacements or localized disasters, such as hurricanes or terrorist attacks.

The stockpile also contains Congressionally-mandated countermeasures for chemical, biological, and radiological emergencies that are not available on the commercial market for appropriate response. In the event state and local supplies are depleted and commercial supplies are unavailable, states may request federal assistance from HHS, including for SNS assets.

Many of the supplies, medicines, and devices for life-saving care contained in the stockpile can be used as a short-term stopgap buffer when the immediate supply of adequate amounts of these materials may not be immediately available.

COVID-19 Response

To supplement state and local governments on the front lines of the COVID-19 outbreak, the SNS is deploying (Personal Protective Equipment) PPE, including N95 respirators, surgical/face masks, face shields, gloves, disposable gowns, and ventilators to assist with community-based COVID-19 transmission in all 50 states, the nation's four largest cities, and U.S. territories.

Many states also have stockpiled products that can be used under current authorization and guidance from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In addition to the current PPE supply held by the SNS, HHS recently announced it intends to procure up to an additional 500 million N95s over the next 18 months to encourage increased production. It is working with private industry partners to potentially arrange contracts to rapidly buy additional supplies, surgical/face masks, ventilators and other critical PPE to protect the American people.

Requesting Assets from the SNS

In the event state and local supplies are depleted and commercial supplies are unavailable, states may request federal assistance from HHS. This includes requests for SNS assets such as PPE.

Once assistance is approved, the HHS Secretary, or the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) under the HHS Secretary's authority, will direct the SNS to deploy supplies. Typically, the state is then responsible for distributing the supplies to areas in need based on established distribution plans.

Regional Emergency Coordinators (RECs) assigned to each of the HHS regions throughout the country are working directly with states to determine PPE needs and to submit their requests for a pro-rata allocation to HHS. For areas of intense COVID-19 transmission, the REC may submit a request from the state for an

additional allocation. This strategic coordination is important to manage the many simultaneous requests for PPE.

Tribal Access to Strategic National Stockpile

Tribes may request SNS assets in the following two ways:

- A Tribe may contact their State Health Office to make a request for PPE that is for Healthcare purposes only and after the Tribe has exhausted all other supplies. It is the state's responsibility to include the Tribal request in their state request to the HHS Secretary's Operations Command (SOC). It is also the state's responsibility to ensure that the resources make it to the Tribe once they receive it.
- Recognizing the Sovereign Status of Tribes and the direct government-to-government relationship with Tribes, Tribes after having exhausted their supply of PPE for healthcare, may contact their IHS Emergency Management Point of Contact (EMPOC) who will prioritize the request to the IHS Headquarters. IHS Headquarters will then make the request to the SOC and keep track of when requests are fulfilled.

It is extremely important to remember that access to the SNS for the SOC is only limited to those PPE requests that are for healthcare purposes *only* and it must be demonstrated that the Tribe has exhausted their supply. If a Tribe has a request for PPE that is not healthcare related (law enforcement or other), they must contact their Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Regional Tribal Liaison.

Distribution of COVID-19 PPE from the SNS

HHS has been deploying PPE from the SNS to areas in need in the most equitable way for a nationwide response.

High transmission areas are prioritized, and quantities are based on population. Because of the finite supply of PPE in the commercial supply chain, SNS-held product is prioritized for the highest-risk healthcare personnel.

As the outbreak evolves and SNS PPE inventory levels fluctuate, HHS will review and revise allocation policy in order to address these changes in PPE availability and healthcare system needs.

The allocation strategy maintains a balance between meeting the current response needs of jurisdictions nationwide with future potential needs as this response progresses. When SNS coordinates with states, it is emphasized that this PPE is for medical use with priority for long-term care facilities and nursing homes.