Q: How do I access items from the Strategic National Stockpile?

A: IHS issued new Strategic National Stockpile guidance on 4/2. On March 28, IHS provided Federal, Tribal and Urban FEMA Guidance to the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) & Healthcare Resource Request and a Resource Request Form. The IHS guidance explains that health care resources may be requested from the SNS only after other supplies and sources have been exhausted. Tribal Nations have two options for requesting resources: (1) directly contacting their FEMA Regional Tribal Liaison; or (2) contacting their IHS Area Emergency Management Point of Contact (EMPOC).

The IHS guidance provides that programs choosing to have IHS Area EMPOCs assist in the request for medical supplies will fill out the Resource Request Form and submit it to the IHS Area EMPOC. The IHS Area EMPOC will then review the request, enter it into IHS’s tracking system, submit it to FEMA, and work with the relevant FEMA and SNS staff to address the request.

On March 31, FEMA issued a stakeholder advisory regarding ventilator request. This advisory also encouraged Tribal officials to share the FDA’s Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for Ventilators issued on March 24. The EUA allows anesthesia gas machines and positive pressure breathing devices to be modified for use as ventilators.

The Assistant Secretary for Preparedness also has information.