

Getting Medicine During an Emergency



When help is needed fast

If a disease outbreak or a terrorist attack occurred, thousands of people may need medication to treat or prevent the spread of disease. The Philadelphia Department of Public Health is ready to provide life-saving medicine or vaccine to those who need it, or the entire population of Philadelphia, within only a few days.

Assistance for Philadelphia

If there is an emergency, the City will need a lot of medicine, medical supplies and possibly vaccine. Since local supplies will be used up quickly, the federal government keeps a stockpile of supplies in several secure locations around the country called the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). Once the SNS is requested, medicine and supplies can be delivered to Philadelphia within 12 hours.

Getting Medicine to the People

In order to get medication or vaccine to thousands of people during an emergency, the City will open up points of dispensing (PODs). PODs are emergency medication centers. PODs are sites throughout the city where people will be directed to go to pick up medications for their family or to get a vaccine.

Postal carriers may also be able to get medicine to people by delivering it directly to their homes. Postal carriers may be used in addition to PODs.

Where will PODs be located?

If the City needs to get medicine or vaccine to many people, trained staff will quickly open PODs. PODs will be located in large public buildings such as schools and rec centers. They will be centrally located in many areas of the city to minimize the amount of time people need to travel to reach them, and to allow most people to walk or get there by public transportation.

The City will announce when PODs will open, where to find them, what to bring, and what to expect. You will be able to get this important information from sources that include:

- Television and radio news, such as KYW 1060 AM
- Local and state websites, such as www.readyphiladelphia.org
- Community, civic and religious organizations.

Important things to remember

- If a POD is opened to give medicine or vaccine from the Strategic National Stockpile in an emergency, it will be free.
- There will be a large supply, enough for everyone.
- The process will be simple.

For more information about emergencies, visit www.readyphiladelphia.org.