

Public Health's Role in Medication Dispensing

One of the Health Department's primary responsibilities in a public health emergency would be **Emergency Medication Dispensing** utilizing the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) to prevent the occurrence and transmission of disease by providing preventive treatment.

The **Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)** is the United States repository of medicine and medical supplies. The SNS supplies state and local public health agencies in the event of an emergency for which there is preventive medication. The SNS is coordinated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Medication Dispensing Could Be Triggered By:

- Increasing numbers of people ill with a lab-confirmed agent, for which there is preventive medication
- A known release of an agent for which there is a preventive medication
- The recommendation of the Illinois Department of Public Health

A Medication Dispensing Operation would require assistance from many **Countywide Emergency Response Partners** including: Emergency Services and Disaster Agency (ESDA), police, fire, hospitals, NIU Health Service, Red Cross, county highway department, schools, and mental health and service agencies. Partners meet periodically to work together to improve plans to respond to an emergency requiring the mass dispensing of medication.