

**Questions & Sample Answers**  
**ECHO-TV Show # 407 & #408 (re-do original show #6)**  
**“Mass Dispensing of Medicine”**

(Recording Show: Tuesday, April 22nd, 2008 / 2:00-8:00 pm @ TPT)

### **Host and Interpreter Reminders:**

- A. Please announce in English which question you are asking so your guest and the studio crew can follow you.
- B. Please group your answers (2 bullets at a time) rather than try to cover all the info listed under each question.
- C. Remember to look at each other in acknowledgement and to look at the camera to acknowledge your audience from time to time.
- D. Try to use your native language to explain Mass Dispensing of Medicine. When in doubt, use English.

### **1) Dr. Ruth Lynfield, what is your job at the Minnesota Department of Health?**

- My responsibility is to watch for outbreaks of disease affecting large numbers of people at the same time.
- When these outbreaks occur, we determine the cause and then find ways to control the spread of the disease.

### **2) What do we mean by “Mass Dispensing of Medicine” and what is the “SNS”?**

- The Strategic National Stockpile or SNS, is a government plan that will help health departments get medicines to everyone in an emergency.
- We’ll do this by setting up special clinics, called mass dispensing clinics. If we have to use them, we will let every one know where they are, and which one they should go to.

- If we have to, we can use these clinics to get medicine to everyone who needs it within 48 hours.

**3) When would we need mass dispensing clinics? What kind of health emergency would be big enough for that?**

- There are two kinds of emergencies where we would use the mass dispensing clinics.
- One is if someone intentionally spread dangerous germs or chemicals to make people very sick and possibly cause many deaths.
- The other is an outbreak of a new disease that might cause many deaths. This kind of disease would be like the SARS outbreak in 2003, only the new disease would spread much more rapidly and affects many more people.

**4) Why can't people just go to their regular doctor in an emergency to get shots or medicine?**

- In an emergency, too many people will need shots or medicine all at once which is why mass dispensing clinics will deliver medicine. Your doctor may also be very busy caring for sick people.
- Mass dispensing clinics are special clinics, set up to do the job of getting medicine to mass amounts of people in an emergency. We will only open these special clinics when – and if – we need them.

**5) In an emergency, will we have enough medicine to care for all the people who will need it?**

- We will have enough medicine for everyone who lives here.
- Large supplies of emergency medicine have been stored in special places, all around the country. In an emergency, Minnesota will receive its supply of medicine in less than a day.

**6) How will we find out that we need to go to mass dispensing clinic and what will we need to do?**

- You will hear all about mass dispensing clinics on TV, the radio, in the newspapers and on the Internet.
- During an emergency, you should pay very close attention to the news.
- Information about the emergency will also be available through ECHO, in your language, on this television channel.

**7) What are some things people can do to be ready if they ever need to use a mass-dispensing clinic?**

- Do the same things you would do to be ready for any big emergency – whether it's a big disease outbreak or flood or a tornado.
- Be prepared to take care of your family at home for several days without being able to go to the store
- Always have emergency supplies ready in your home -- food, water, blankets and a first aid kit.
- If you are sick, you go to your doctor or to the hospital.

**8) How well do these mass dispensing clinics work? Do people need to be worried about getting their medicine in an emergency**

- Your public health department is working to make sure the clinics will have all the people and equipment they need so they can get the medicine to people quickly.
- In an emergency, we want to get medicine to everyone who needs it within 48 hours. We are working very hard to make sure we can do that.
- The emergency clinics will be easy to find, and they will be able to take care of many people. If you go to an emergency clinic, you may have to stand in line for a long time. There should be plenty of medicine to go around.

**9) Is there anything else people should know about Mass Dispensing of Medicine Clinics? Or anything else we should know about the kinds of emergencies where we would use mass dispensing clinics?**

- If a big emergency happens, you and your family may be very afraid. That's normal.
- The important thing is to know what you should do – and what you should avoid doing – to protect yourself and your family.
- ECHO – and this TV channel – will be the place to get the best information about what is happening and what you should be doing about it.

Looks good.  
Thanks Lillian.  
R

>>> "Lillian McDonald" <[mcdonald@echominnesota.org](mailto:mcdonald@echominnesota.org)> 4/8/2008 12:42 PM

>>> >>>

I'm glad you're feeling better Ruth! I've made the minor revisions you requested and have attached the Q and A's for tonight's review. I'll have a copy there for your use... but just wanted you to be aware! See you at TPT at 5:00! Lillian

Lillian McDonald - Executive Director

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