

ECHO #6 (Re-Do 2008): Mass Dispensing of Medicine (Strategic National Stockpile) (ENGLISH)

EDIT DIRECTIONS	AUDIO TRACK
	<p>--1-- It happens to everybody from time to time.</p> <p>--2-- You – or someone in your family – will get a cough, or a stuffy nose, or a fever. And then other people start getting it. It starts to spread through your home, and through your community.</p> <p>--3-- Most of the time, the diseases people get from each other do not cause harm in the long term. You feel bad for a little while, and then you get better, usually without needing to go to the doctor or take medicine.</p> <p>--4-- But sometimes, diseases are more serious than that. A really dangerous disease may occur in your community, and start moving quickly from person to person. If that happens, it can make a lot of people sick all at once. That is called an “epidemic,” or an “outbreak.”</p> <p>--5-- Sometimes, outbreaks just happen, for no particular reason. But it is also possible for somebody to start an outbreak on purpose. That is called “bioterrorism.” It is not likely, but people have tried it before – and they could try again. They tried to cause an epidemic a few years ago, here in the United States, with a disease called “anthrax.”</p> <p>--6-- But, no matter what causes the epidemic, if enough people get sick, you could have trouble getting the medicine you need to fight the disease.</p>

	<p>--7--</p> <p>You might not be able to get the shots or pills you need from the usual place – your doctor, your clinic or your community drug store. It would be very, very unusual to have an outbreak that big – but it could happen, and we need to be ready for it if it ever does.</p> <p>--8--</p> <p>Public health workers all across the country have already been preparing for this possibility. We now have large supplies of medicine stored all over the United States – and wherever this medicine is needed, local public health departments can get it in less than a day or two.</p> <p>--9--</p> <p>If we ever need that medicine here in Minnesota, there will be a special place in your community where you can get the medicine. We will let you know where and when – so stay tuned to your local public TV station and wait for directions, or check your local radio station or newspaper.</p> <p>--10--</p> <p>It may take a few days – or even longer – before public health workers can give you your medicine. And when the time comes to get your medicine, you may have to wait in line. If there is a very big outbreak of a disease, the public health department will need to give out medicine to a lot of people.</p> <p>--11---</p> <p>If you do need to wait for your medicine, be patient – and don't worry about whether you will get it or not. There will be plenty of time to get your medicine, and plenty of medicine for everybody. And you won't have to pay for it.</p> <p>---12--</p> <p>Do not look for an “unofficial” place to get medicine. The drugs you get that way may not work, and they could even be dangerous.</p>
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	<p>---13---</p> <p>While you are waiting for your medicine, stay home as much as possible. That way, you and your family will be less likely to catch a dangerous disease.</p> <p>---14---</p> <p>There are also things you can do to be ready before you and your family go to get your medicine. You will be asked some questions about your health, so make sure you can answer them – for yourself, and for everyone in your family.</p> <p>----15---</p> <p>For example: Do you have any health problems right now? Are you taking any medicine? Have you had any health problems in the past? Have you ever been told that you are “allergic” to any kind of medicine? How old are your children, and how much do they weigh?</p> <p>---16---</p> <p>If you can, we recommend that you write this information down in advance, and include it in an emergency plan for your family so everyone knows what to do and where to go for help in an emergency.</p> <p>---17---</p> <p>When you arrive at the designated place to get the medicine you need, you will be told all about what the medicine is and how to take it. If the public health workers give you pills, be sure to take them exactly according to the instructions.</p> <p>---18--</p> <p>If you are an adult you can also pick up pills for up to ten other people who live with you. No one will be turned away when you come to get your medicine – and we will do all that we can to serve you in your own language.</p>
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	<p>---19---</p> <p>We hope that a very big, serious disease outbreak will never occur, and that public health workers will never have to give out medicine in this special way. But if we ever do, we want to be ready, and we want you to be ready. That way, we can save lives and help people keep from getting sick – in your family, and in your community.</p> <p>857 words</p>
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