



STATE OF OHIO
Emergency Operations Center
NEWS RELEASE
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Ted Strickland, Governor
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For Immediate Release
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**STRATEGIC NATIONAL STOCKPILE ASSETS NOW IN PLACE
REGIONALLY**

COLUMBUS - Governor Ted Strickland today announced the Ohio Department of Health, Department of Public Safety and the Ohio National Guard have distributed H1N1 antiviral medications and other medical supplies from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) to eight regional locations.

“These critical resources have been distributed regionally throughout Ohio so they can be accessed quickly if needed,” said Ohio Governor Ted Strickland. “I appreciate the collaboration among employees in our state agencies. Ohio’s readiness for the developing H1N1 situation is strengthened because of their efforts.”

Ohio requested its portion of the SNS after identifying its first case of H1N1 virus (swine flu) in the state. The SNS contains medicines, personal protective equipment (such as gowns, masks and gloves) for first responders and other medical supplies. Ohio’s receipt of 25 percent of its allotted SNS brings in resources critical to respond if existing supplies already in the state begin to run low.

“I want to thank the federal government for responding so quickly to this situation and providing Ohio with these critical resources,” Strickland said.

The SNS will be accessed based on the severity of the situation, including factors such as the availability of commercial supply and confirmed cases of H1N1 virus in the community. If SNS medicines are needed, they will be provided at no charge to patients needing treatment and as prescribed by their doctor. SNS antiviral medications are to be used solely for treatment purposes, and not as preventive medication.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) has large quantities of medicine and medical supplies to protect the American public if there is a public health emergency (e.g., terrorist attack, flu outbreak, earthquake) severe enough to cause local supplies to run out. Each state has plans to receive and distribute SNS medicine and medical supplies to local communities as quickly as possible.

The ODH will continue to monitor the trends of the outbreak and make changes to its SNS plan as the situation dictates. For more information about the H1N1 virus in Ohio, call 1-866-800-1404, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Visit the ODH Web site for current case counts <http://www.odh.ohio.gov>.

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