

Cover Sheet



DATE: April 7, 2014

SUBJECT: Exercise: Big Sky Push II – Activation

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For LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT reference only
DPHHS Subject Matter Resource for more information regarding this HAN, contact:

DPHHS DOC
Liaison
406-444-3075
HHSPHSDPHEPSimCell@mt.gov

**DPHHS Health Alert Hotline:
1-800-701-5769**

**DPHHS HAN Website:
www.han.mt.gov**

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Categories of Health Alert Messages:

- Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
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- Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.
- Information Service:** passes along low level priority messages that do not fit other HAN categories and are for informational purposes only.

Please call DPHHS to update contact information at 444-0919 or 444-6906

Information Sheet

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Background: *Scenario:* Health care providers across Montana are short of medical supplies due to a continued rise of Influenza 2014 cases. Montana hospital beds are filling rapidly with the critically ill, and a shortage of bed space is being reported by many counties. In anticipation of a continued rise of Influenza 2014 cases, DPHHS leadership has decided to request Federal assistance. DPHHS will develop a plan to allocate available medical supplies and ship the items to each local health jurisdiction. A specific shipping timeline will be shared with Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs) as the state plan is refined.

The Incident Command Advisory Group (ICAG) also instructed Communicable Disease Control and Prevention Bureau (CDCPB) to plan under the assumption that “the State will receive a full SNS [Strategic National Stockpile] push package in addition to a quantity of Influenza 2014 vaccine just now becoming available for distribution.” The push package, along with additional vaccines, must be distributed within 12 hours of receipt.

Information: The SNS Push Package will be formally requested from the CDC today, and is expected to arrive in Montana by 8:00 AM Tuesday, April 8th 2014.

Vaccines and medical supplies are expected to be received by Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJ) between Wednesday April 9th and Friday April 11th 2014.

DPHHS CDCPB’s Immunizations Section has or will be calling your LHJ requesting this information:

- *Shipping Addresses* for LHJs’ receipt of vaccines and medical supplies
- *Size of Storage Space* available for vaccines and medical supplies
- *Temperature Logs* for vaccines storage space

DPHHS will publish guidance on Target Populations and Priority Groups for vaccination as available.

Recommendations: LHJs should prepare to receive a single shipment of vaccines and medical supplies between Wednesday April 9th and Friday April 11th 2014.

For LHJs planning to conduct Point of Distribution (POD) operations exercises with the Big Sky Push II Exercise, preparation for POD Operations is recommended pending more instructions from DPHHS.

For questions regarding Big Sky Push II contact the DPHHS Department Operations Center (DOC) Liaison at 406-444-3075 or HHSPHSDPHEPSimCell@mt.gov