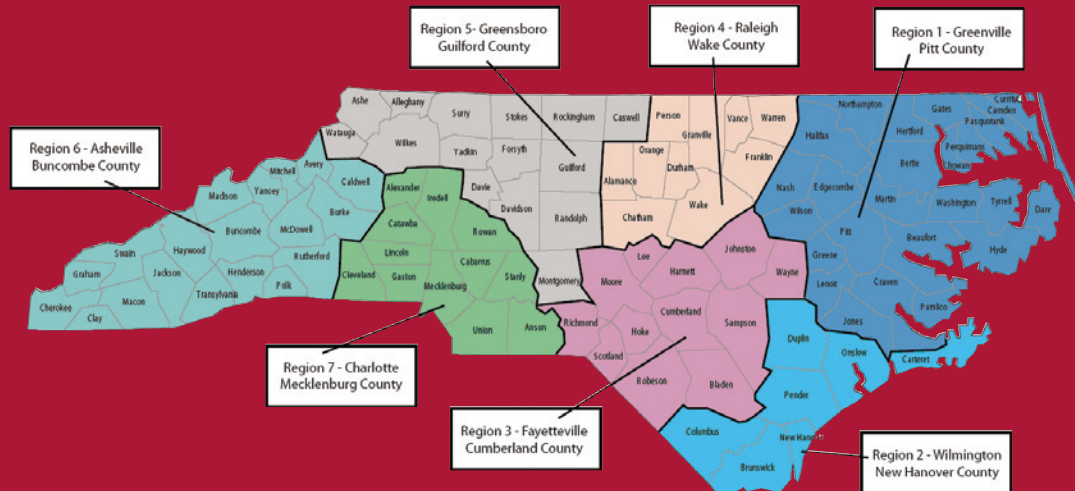


## Public Health Regional Surveillance Teams by Regions



## Know Your POD!

During a public health emergency you may be asked to go to a special Point of Dispensing site – also called a POD. Although public health officials will be using the media during an event to tell people where their POD is located, it is always a good idea to be prepared. Use the information below to become familiar with the location of your POD and keep this pamphlet handy – just in case.

### POD Location Information

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*An essential guide to help North Carolina residents prepare for the delivery of essential SNS medications and medical supplies during a health emergency.*



State of North Carolina  
 Department of Health and Human Services  
 Division of Public Health  
 Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response  
[www.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.ncdhhs.gov) • [www.epi.state.nc.us/epi/phpr](http://www.epi.state.nc.us/epi/phpr)

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## WHEN DISASTER STRIKES

North Carolina Residents  
 and the Strategic  
 National Stockpile



The leaders of North Carolina’s public health system want residents to know that they have been working very hard the past several years to prepare for the delivery of special medical supplies during any health emergency that might use up our existing supplies. To make this happen, state and local public health managers have worked closely with local emergency management, law enforcement, emergency medical services, fire departments, patient care facilities, the military, and volunteers to plan **AHEAD OF TIME** for the order and delivery of these materials. In the event that there is ever a need for these supplies, it is important that people in every community know where to go to get them.

## What are these medical supplies and where do they come from?

### The Strategic National Stockpile and North Carolina

- The CDC’s (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) is a large supply of medications and medical supplies that can be used following a public health emergency – such as a terrorist attack, flu outbreak, or hurricane – when local supplies are expected to run out.
- Once state and local officials decide there is a need for the SNS supplies, state response officials alert the CDC. Because the supplies are kept in special shipping containers that are stored in key spots across the country, they can be delivered to North Carolina within 12 hours of a request being approved. These “Push Packages” are made up of 130 containers and can be loaded onto trucks or cargo aircraft for rapid delivery. They contain a lot of different medical supplies and medicines so that local responders –



who may be responding to many different types of health threats – will be able to choose what they need based on almost any threat they may face.

- If the emergency requires even more medicines and/or medical supplies – or if at the beginning of a threat local emergency responders know exactly what they need – health officials can order just the kind of supplies necessary. These “Managed Inventory” supplies can be delivered within 36 hours of being ordered. During an event where the threat is known, the Managed Inventory can be tailored to provide medicines, supplies and other products specific to the suspected or confirmed threat. In this case, Managed Inventory can be used instead of Push Packages.

• The SNS program also coordinates the CHEMPACK Project and the Cities Readiness Initiative. CHEMPACK is a CDC effort to provide state and local governments a stored supply of nerve agent antidotes so that they can respond quickly to an event where nerve agents are used.

- The Cities Readiness Initiative focuses on helping major cities and their metropolitan areas – like Charlotte – prepare for a large scale bioterrorist event by developing the means to dispense antibiotics to their entire population within 48 hours of the decision to do so.

### All Disasters are Local

Once the SNS materials arrive at the state’s designated Receipt, Stage and Storage sites (RSS), the Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response (PHP&R) will take control of them. PHP&R will then sort the materials and deliver them to Local Receiving Sites (LRS) in each county where needed. Key to making sure the materials are delivered safely and quickly are the local emergency managers. **(See the Emergency Management section on the next panel.)**

## Partners for Preparedness: Keeping our Communities Safe

### Regional Surveillance Team Pharmacists

PHP&R has established seven Public Health Regional Surveillance Teams (PHRSTs) to facilitate preparedness efforts throughout the state. Among other essential assets associated with this system are the three regional pharmacists and the state pharmacist who plan and coordinate North Carolina’s SNS activities. These public health pharmacists also provide direction and oversight to local health departments and jurisdictions for all SNS-related issues.

### Local Public Health

The local public health department serves as the SNS planning and coordination agency at the county level. The health department’s Preparedness Coordinator is charged with maintaining an SNS plan for each local public health department or district. These local plans are created and updated jointly with all SNS partner agencies in the county or jurisdiction.

### Emergency Management

Local Emergency Management (EM) is the primary partner in planning for the delivery and storage of SNS materials to each county. All requests for SNS resources are made through EM while working with public health at both the local and state levels. Resources are received at the local receiving site – managed by local public health – and supported by EM and others.

### Law Enforcement

Law Enforcement plays a vital role in security services by making sure all SNS assets are secure, while providing protection for staff, volunteers, and facilities.



### EMS/Fire

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and fire professionals are essential partners for SNS planning and support, providing their knowledge to make sure community needs are met in any SNS event.

### Hospitals/Patient Care Facilities

Patient care facilities also have an important role during SNS events and may even serve as a Point of Dispensing (POD) for their staff members, patients and families. Their expertise and support are also essential in SNS planning.

### Volunteer Organizations

Volunteer organizations, consisting of Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Units, faith based organizations, non-profit groups, and others, assist with POD and staff support.

### Military Installations

Military Installations, another key partner in SNS planning, may be involved on many levels. Installations may provide an LRS facility, a POD, security, or provide additional support for SNS activities.

### Other Government Agencies, Private Businesses, and Schools and Universities

The list of possible SNS partnerships is almost endless. Government agencies may supply trucks and drivers to make deliveries. Private businesses may provide warehouse space or serve as a point of dispensing for employees. Schools and universities make excellent locations for community PODs.

**IMPORTANT:** Your county health department has already established one or more Point of Dispensing sites for emergency medicines and supplies. Please look at the next panel for the location of these sites and/or the name and contact information of your local or regional Preparedness Coordinator.