



## SNS-RELATED PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DRILLS

The RAND Corporation has been working with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (HHS/ASPR) on a variety of projects dealing with public health emergency preparedness. As part of an effort to revise the system that the Centers for Disease Control, Division of Strategic National Stockpile (CDC/DSNS) uses to measure state and local health department SNS readiness, RAND developed a set of drill-based metrics to test operational readiness. The drills focus on the following capabilities: call down, site activation, facility set up, pick-list generation, and dispensing. A draft report, including manuals for these drills, may be found online at [http://www.rand.org/pubs/working\\_papers/WR455/](http://www.rand.org/pubs/working_papers/WR455/).

The following drills may be run as stand alone assessments or combined with already planned SNS exercises. Most of these drills are not resource-intensive. The drills are small in scale, testing fairly narrow and specific processes. This allows the system to test important operational capabilities without imposing heavy burdens on state and local health departments. Small scale drills are also less likely to overwhelm state and local quality improvement efforts, thus increasing the likelihood that the assessments will be viewed as useful for internal as well as external accountability purposes.

- **Call-down:** The staff call down drill tests the validity of jurisdictions' call down lists and their ability to contact those staff in a timely manner, and estimates the percentage of staff who could report for duty within a designated time frame. Call down is a crosscutting capability, applicable to a wide variety of SNS functions, including dispensing, warehousing (RSS), distribution, security, and command centers, among others.
- **Pick-list generation:** The pick list generation (PLG) drill is designed to assess jurisdictions' proficiency in generating pick lists. These lists that translate command-level decisions about allocation of resources among PODs into detailed guidance about what specific quantities of countermeasures should go to what PODs. As such, they provide essential guidance for picking, palletizing, and loading materials stored in RSS facilities into trucks destined for POD sites. Discussions with subject matter experts and observation of RSS drills identified pick list generation as a common bottleneck on the critical path to moving SNS materiel to affected populations.
- **Dispensing:** This drill assesses the speed and accuracy with which local jurisdictions can dispense oral prophylaxis in a POD setting. It is designed to measure dispensing throughput, as well as collect data on patient flow time and processing times at each step. To minimize the burden on health departments, this drill can be performed in conjunction with already-planned POD exercises or vaccination clinics.
- **Site Activation:** The site activation drill tests jurisdictions' ability to quickly contact operators/owners of sites that would house critical SNS facilities (e.g., RSS warehouses, PODs, EOCs) and determine how quickly the sites could be made ready for emergency operations. Site Activation is a crosscutting capability, applicable to multiple functions in a mass prophylaxis scenario, such as dispensing (POD), warehousing (RSS) and command centers (EOC).





- **Facility Set-Up:** The goal of a setup drill is to test the amount of time it takes to completely set up a facility with the materiel, layout, and supplies necessary to perform a given SNS function. Facility setup is a crosscutting capability, applicable to a wide variety of SNS functions, including dispensing (POD), warehousing (RSS), and command and control (EOC), among others. Proper setup is an important precondition of a rapid and effective response, and may in some situations lay on the critical path to successfully prophylax a population within 48 hours.

