

Public Health Emergencies

Queen Anne's County Department of Health



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Department of Health

Cornerstone of
Emergency
Preparedness =
PERSONAL
Preparedness
“It’s Not Luck!”



- Do you have a plan for your Family in the event of an emergency?
 - If your family is prepared, you are better able to respond to an emergency and help the community.
- Know your risk for the area where you live and work.
- Make a plan to lessen the impact of those risks.
- Build a kit to be ready for disasters and emergencies.
 - Visit www.ready.gov for checklists and helpful tips on being prepared for a disaster.

County Emergency Notifications

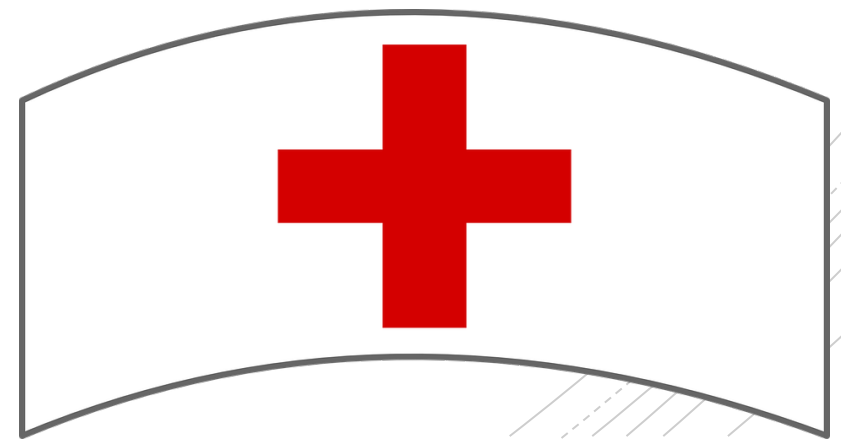
- Everbridge is the emergency alert notification system used by Queen Anne's County.
- To receive alerts about emergencies and other important community events in QAC, visit the Department of Emergency Services website at <https://www.qac.org/325/Emergency-Services>

Types of Emergencies

- What kind of public health emergencies does QACDOH plan for or respond to?
 - Naturally Occurring Events – Severe Weather (snow storms, hurricanes, extreme heat), Pandemics or Epidemics/Outbreaks (influenza, measles, smallpox)
 - Technological Events – Power Failures, Supply Chain Interruptions
 - Human-related Events – Bioterrorism (anthrax), Active Shooter, Mass Casualty/Fatality
 - Chemical/Radiological Events – Hazardous Materials Spill, Radiological/Nuclear Dispersal

Who Responds?

- Most emergency responses require only a few people, typically the Health Officer, Directors, and PHEP.
- Sometimes limited DOH staff are asked to help staff a Shelter.
- All LHD staff may be asked to assist in a large response such as a mass medication distribution at a Point of Dispensing clinic.
- Other duties: Call Center, Surveillance, Clerical or Logistical Support.



Points of Dispensing

- In an emergency requiring the Health Department medicate the population in a fixed amount of time, we activate large clinics called Points of Dispensing or PODs.
- There are two types of PODs:
 - Medical Model (like a Flu Clinic)
 - Limited number of people
 - Sufficient time to treat/dispense
 - Medical screening conducted
 - Sufficient medical and non-medical personnel
 - Non-medical Model
 - Large numbers of the population affected
 - Limited timeframe to dispense
 - Rapid throughput
 - Head of Household conducts Self-screening for all
 - Requires less medical staff to run

Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI)

- Queen Anne's County is a CRI county due to its proximity to Washington, D.C. and is part of the Baltimore Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).
- CRI started after the Anthrax incidents of 2001 and requires jurisdictions have a plan to rapidly deploy medical countermeasures to the population within 48 hours of notification.
- We use the non-medical model to dispense the medicine to our 50,000+ citizens!



Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)

- Where does all the medicine come from to medicate 50,000+ people in 48 hours? The SNS.
- The Strategic National Stockpile is a national repository, administered by the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness & Response (ASPR), to supplement federal, state, and local public health agencies stockpiles of:
 - Antibiotics
 - Chemical antidotes
 - Vaccines
 - Antitoxins
 - Antivirals
 - Other PPE and equipment
- SNS supplies can be sent anywhere in the US within 12 hours.

What can you do?

- **Be Informed. Make a Plan. Build a Kit. Get Involved.**
- **Pay attention to emergency alerts and know how to prepared for the hazards that affect our area.**
- **Where will you go if an emergency affects your home?**
- **Prepare for 3 days on your own.**
- **Consider becoming a volunteer for public health or your community.**