

Questions and Answers: The National Veterinary Stockpile and the 24 Hour Push Pack

The National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS) program, coordinated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), provides support to States, Tribes, and Territories responding to damaging animal disease outbreaks. Within 24 hours, the NVS can provide veterinary countermeasures—including certain types of animal vaccines, antivirals, supplies, equipment, and response services—to animal health officials in affected areas. To learn more about this program, see the NVS factsheet on APHIS' Web site at www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/content/printable_version/veterinary_stockpile.pdf.

One of the services NVS provides is shipping the "24 Hour Push Pack" when needed to combat a damaging animal disease outbreak.

Q. What is a "24 Hour Push Pack?"

A. A 24 Hour Push Pack is the initial shipment of supplies. The shipment will arrive within 24 hours of APHIS' approval to deploy resources. The requestor only needs to provide basic information about the situation, and we will coordinate the transport of supplies needed to respond to a damaging animal disease.

There are four details we need to determine which push pack is most appropriate for the situation:

- 1) **Type of disease**—this helps determine whether a standard or high-protection push pack is needed. High-protection push packs include high-level respiratory protection, such as Powered Air Purifying Respirators (PAPR).
- 2) **Number of responders expected**—this determines the number of push packs needed. Each push pack supports 10 responders for 10 days, changing 6 times per day. When making your request, round the number of responders up to the nearest multiple of 10.

- 3) **Incident command point-of-contact** to coordinate the NVS deployment
- 4) The **physical address of the facility** that will receive NVS supplies

Once we receive this information, the NVS Deployment Management Team will determine what to provide immediately.

Q. What does a push pack contain?

A. Depending on the level of protection needed, there are two types of push packs.

A standard protection push pack contains four modules:

- 2 Tyvek personal protective equipment (PPE) modules, which include 450 PPE kits, a first aid kit, bulk nitrile gloves, and boot covers;
- 1 Tychem module, which includes 150 PPE kits; and
- 1 decontamination module, which contains disposable aprons, isolation bags, Ziploc® bags, long-handled brushes, buckets with covers, pop-up ultra pols, shoe and boot scrapers, EMS shears, 2-gallon sprayers, chemical tape, caution tape, and Virkon® S test strips.

A high-protection push pack contains five modules:

- 2 Tyvek PPE modules, which include 450 PPE kits, a first aid kit, bulk nitrile gloves, and boot covers;
- 1 Tychem module, which includes 150 PPE kits;
- 1 decontamination module, which contains disposable aprons, isolation bags, Ziploc bags, long-handled brushes, buckets with covers, pop-up ultra pols, shoe and boot scrapers, EMS shears, 2-gallon sprayers, chemical tape, caution tape, and Virkon S test strips; and
- 1 PAPR module, which contains the 3M™ Breathe Easy™ PAPR System.

If emergency vaccination is approved, you may also request a module containing vaccine ancillary supplies (e.g., needles, syringes, and sharps containers). In the event of a foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreak, you may request a second vaccine ancillary supplies module containing pink FMD tags. This request is subject to North American FMD Vaccine Bank (NAFMDVB) approval; NVS stores the pink FMD tags for the NAFMDVB.

Q. What sizes of PPE are included in each 24 Hour Push Pack?

A. Each PPE module contains 2XL and 3XL suits. The NVS staff determined, after careful consideration, that these two sizes fit the vast majority of responders.

Q. Will all of the 24 Hour Push Packs arrive on one truck?

A. NVS can typically load 50 to 52 modules in one tractor trailer. This equates to 10 push packs, with the remaining 2 spaces available for possible vaccine ancillary supplies. If you require more than 10 push packs, expect more than one tractor trailer.

Q. Do the 24 Hour Push Packs arrive on pallets?

A. The push packs are fully contained in Tri-Walls™, which consist of triple-walled, fiberboard sleeves, a plastic top, and a plastic bottom pallet. The sleeve can be locked with the bottom pallet and top to form a rigid and secure system that eliminates the requirement for banding, stretch wrap, or strapping material. They are 40 inches by 48 inches and are either 45 inches or 52 inches tall. The plastic top and bottom pallet can be removed and the sleeve folded for storage. Forklifts or pallet jacks move them easily.

Q. How are the 24 Hour Push Packs configured? How can I quickly identify items in the pack?

A. Each 24 Hour Push Pack consists of modules that are packed with like items. This allows warehouse personnel to quickly find specific items; for example, all decontamination supplies are packed in modules that have been labeled with a number “4.” We also attach a detailed packing list to the outside of each module that identifies the contents. A packing diagram for each module is included on a drop flap.

To expedite filling requests, the NVS uses the following color-coded labeling system to distinguish the contents of each module so that items can be located quickly:

- Blue = PPE
- White = decontamination supplies
- Yellow = vaccines, antivirals, and vaccination supplies
- Green = PAPR systems

Q. Can empty modules be used to ship supplies from a storage location to a premises?

A. Empty Tri-Walls must be returned to an NVS logistics center so that they can be reused. The NVS Deployment Management Team will arrange for pickup and transport back to one of our centers.

Q. If I have questions about the NVS, who should I contact?

A. Email us at nvs@aphis.usda.gov with any questions. More information is also available on our Web site at www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/emergency_management/nvs.shtml.

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