

Subject: **NVS Push Packages**

Q. What does the term “push pack” mean?

A. We refer to our first shipment as a 24-hour push package: “24-hour” because the shipment will arrive within 24 hours of APHIS’ order to deploy, “push” because a State need only tell us basic information, and we will ship (i.e. push) what it needs to continue responding to a damaging animal disease.

- The number of responders the State is fielding to determine the amount of personal protective equipment (PPE) and disinfectant to provide.
- The disease to determine if it is zoonotic, which in turn determines the type of highly protective equipment for responders in the push pack.
- The species to determine the type of depopulation equipment the State may need.
- The affected population (infected an exposed) to determine the amount of depopulation equipment the State may need.

Q. How large is a push pack and what does it contain?

A. The size and composition of a push pack will depend on information the State provides when it requests our help. Here’s how we determine the composition and size of a push package:

- Personal protective equipment and disinfectant
 - o We round the number of responders the state will field up to the nearest multiple of 10. If, for instance, the State declares it is fielding 12 responders, we round the number up to 20.
 - o We use the following table to determine the number and type of modules to deploy for every multiple of 10 responders. Each module of PPE contains kits of all PPE items a responder will need. It protects 10 responders changing 5 times a day for 10 days.

	Personal Protective Equipment		Disinfectant
High respiratory protection (zoonotic)	1 Tyvek module 1 gray Tychem module	(2 TW ^a) (1 TW)	1 PAPR ^b module (1 TW)
Standard (non-zoonotic)	1 Tyvek module 1 yellow Tychem module	(2 TW) (1 TW)	1 module (1 TW)

^a Tri-wall container

^b Powered air purifying respirators

- Depopulation equipment: We will work with the State to determine their depopulation equipment needs and the availability of trained personnel to use the equipment.
 - o If the State has personnel trained to use the equipment, we deploy the equipment to

the State.

- o If the State needs the equipment but does not have the personnel who are trained to use it, we deploy the equipment with one of our 3D contractors to support the State.
- Pharmaceuticals/Veterinary Biologics: Whether a push package contains pharmaceuticals such as prophylactic antivirals to protect responders or animal vaccines to protect and stop the spread of disease will depend on the disease and, in the case of vaccines, a joint stakeholder decision to vaccinate.

Q. Will all components in a push package arrive together?

A. Probably not. All components will deploy from NVS logistics centers closest to the outbreak, but the centers will depend on the components in a push package. PPE and disinfectant, for instance, will come from one center, depopulation equipment from another, and pharmaceuticals from other centers.

The time in which the components arrive will also vary. PPE and disinfectant modules will arrive within 24 hours. Depopulation equipment will arrive shortly thereafter. Vaccines will arrive after a decision has been made to vaccinate.

Q. How do you pack a push package?

A. We pack the majority of a push package in weather-resistant, triwall containers. Triwalls are made of triple thick cardboard that can protect contents against moderate rain for a short period. Each triwall has a snap-lock top that can be easily removed and a pallet base that provides easy movement by forklifts or pallet jacks.

We pack like items together in each triwall to help warehouse personnel find and pick specific items responders need. All Tychem PPE, for instance, is packed in one tri-wall and Tyvek PPE in another.

Q. How do you identify items in a push package?

A. We color code and manifest tri-walls and other items in our push pack so warehouse workers can offload and place like items together in the warehouse and find and pick the items when responders request them.

- Blue Personal protective equipment
- White Disposal and decontamination equipment and supplies
- Gray Animal handling equipment for depopulation
- Yellow Biologicals, pharmaceuticals, and related supplies (e.g., vaccines, antivirals, and vaccination supplies)
- Green Powered Air Purifying Respirators (PAPRs)
- Pink General supplies.

We append a detailed manifest to the outside of each tri-wall that identifies the contents of the triwall to help warehouse workers receive everything in our shipment.

Q. Do push packages have to be stored in a temperature-controlled environment?

A. The storage requirement for a push package will depend on its contents. Antiviral medications require storage between 14°C - 30°C. Vaccines require refrigeration at 2°C - 8°C. Neither can be frozen.

Q. Does a push package require covered storage?

A. Although our triwalls can withstand some exposure to rain for a short period, we recommend you store them under covered storage as soon as possible.

Q. Do I need special tools/equipment to unpack a push package?

A. No. Our triwalls have a snap-lock top that can be easily removed.

Q: I don't know much about the NVS. What does it do? What are its responsibilities?

A: The National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS) is the nation's repository of supplies, vaccines, equipment, and other critical veterinary resources. Established by Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9 and operational in 2006, we are able to deploy large quantities of veterinary resources anywhere in the continental U.S. within 24 hours.

We exist because of the nation's concern after 9/11 that terrorists could release animal diseases of catastrophic proportions that would

- deplete State and local response inventories,
- generate surge material requirements that would overwhelm traditional commercial sources, and
- prevent unaffected States from providing significant help for fear of the threat crossing their borders.

Q: If I have more questions, how do I get answers?

A: Email us at nvs@aphis.usda.gov. We will respond quickly.