



Factsheet

National Veterinary Stockpile

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is responsible for safeguarding American agriculture. As a part of this mission, APHIS' National Veterinary Stockpile (NVS) program provides support to States, Tribes, and Territories responding to damaging animal disease outbreaks. To help stop animal diseases from spreading, response efforts must be fast and well-coordinated. Within 24 hours, the NVS can provide veterinary countermeasures—including certain types of animal vaccines, antivirals, supplies, equipment, and response support services—to animal health officials in affected areas.

Established in 2004 by a Presidential directive, the NVS helps protect the Nation's food supply by quickly providing necessary resources during an animal disease outbreak. This allows animal health officials to deliver a rapid and effective disease response. With NVS support, officials can set up immediate measures to contain and eradicate the disease, minimizing the animal losses, market disruptions, and other economic damages that result from an outbreak.

In addition to providing resources and materials when outbreaks occur, NVS personnel help States, Tribes, and Territories prepare for future outbreaks through careful advance planning, staff training, and hands-on simulations. The goal is to ensure the rapid request, receipt, processing, and distribution of NVS resources during an actual event.

Available NVS Resources

The NVS offers many resources to assist animal health officials in addressing the human and livestock health threats posed by disease outbreaks. These resources, known as "veterinary countermeasures," include:

1. **personal protective equipment** for on-the-ground responders to guard against infection and other on-site hazards;
2. **decontamination supplies** to inactivate pathogens;
3. **vaccines** to quickly protect livestock and poultry at risk of infection;
4. **vaccination equipment and supplies** (such as needles and syringes) to effectively immunize large numbers of livestock and poultry;
5. **animal handling and depopulation equipment** to restrain and manage livestock and poultry humanely; and
6. **assistance in securing outside companies**, if needed, to provide trained personnel and additional equipment for large-scale depopulation, disposal, and decontamination work.

Outreach and Exercises

NVS personnel assist States, Tribes, and Territories in planning for potential disease outbreaks to help ensure a smooth response in the event that NVS resources are needed. For example, NVS provides a planning guide, a plan template, and other tools that explain in detail what factors to consider when planning a logistical response. NVS personnel can also share their first-hand experiences and expertise in preparing for and responding to various types of disease situations, which further aids the planning process.

Once a plan is developed, NVS personnel provide logistical training and conduct exercises with States, Tribes, and Territories in accordance with the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program. These exercises test NVS deployment procedures and help Federal, State, Tribal, local, and private-sector partners to:

- understand the NVS program and available countermeasures;
- test their abilities to request, receive, process, and distribute NVS countermeasures;
- clarify roles and responsibilities for a logistical response; and
- identify resource gaps and make improvements before outbreaks occur.

Contact Us

To learn more, visit the NVS Web site at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth-nvs> or email nvs@usda.gov. You can also reach the NVS staff at 301-851-3595 (phone) or 301-734-7817 (fax). In an emergency, please call our 24/7 emergency hotline: 1-800-940-6524.