



# Health Authority Logistics Planning

*Personal Protective Equipment, Mass Vaccination Supplies and  
Critical Drugs Planning*

*September 2009*

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## 1. PURPOSE

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To provide information on the work being done by the B.C. health authorities and the Shared Services Organization to develop

stockpiles of personal protective equipment (PPE) and mass vaccination supplies.

## 2. BACKGROUND

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Since 2006, health authorities have been building stockpiles of mass vaccination supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE) to ensure they are prepared to manage the implications of an influenza pandemic, or other infectious disease outbreak. With the emergence of H1N1, the health authorities have worked with experts to forecast demands on their stockpiles of PPE. Recommendations have been made based on population, epidemiological, infection control and other external factors. The regional health authorities have reviewed the recommendations and have subsequently instructed the Shared Services

Organization to order the necessary supplies to supplement existing stockpiles.

In parallel, the regional health authorities Public Health and Pandemic Planning teams, together with the Shared Services Organization, have been working to determine the quantity of mass vaccination supplies that are required to support an H1N1 vaccination campaign. While the health authorities already have significant stockpiles of mass vaccination-related supplies, needs are continually being reassessed and adjustments to stockpiles are ongoing.

## 3. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

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Health authorities have been provided with recommendations to enhance their PPE stockpiles. These recommendations were based on modelling done using FluSurge, and experiences with H1N1 in the spring of 2009. The recommendations include increasing stocks of respirators, masks, gowns, gloves and other related equipment. Based on these recommendations, additional stockpiles of PPE supplies have been ordered as appropriate, by the Shared Services Organization on behalf of each health authority.

The health authorities are working to develop and implement procedures to control the use of critical supplies. To ensure the stockpiles are

conserved and last for the duration of a pandemic, it will be important that personal protective equipment is used appropriately.

The Shared Services Organization has also been working with some of the largest medical supplies distributors in the province to assess their readiness and ability to support the non-acute health services sector across B.C., including private physicians. The medical supplies distributors have indicated they are executing on their own pandemic preparedness plans, which includes increasing inventory of PPE, critical medical and mass vaccination supplies.

## 4. MASS VACCINATION SUPPLIES

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The health authorities made significant investments in mass vaccination supplies in 2007. To date these stockpiles have been considered sufficient to support a full pandemic vaccination campaign. The more recent development of the H1N1 vaccine had indicated the possible need for a two-dose series.

This led to a global surge in demand for mass vaccination supplies, especially syringes. Recognizing the potential need for additional mass vaccination supplies, health authorities are working to ensure they have sufficient stockpiles to manage H1N1 vaccination needs.

## 5. SUPPLY CONTINUITY

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The Shared Services Organization is working with key suppliers to monitor changes in demand and availability across the medical supplies market to enable the early identification of potential supply issues and the execution of appropriate contingency plans.

In addition, a survey to understand and assess the pandemic and business continuity plans of key suppliers has been undertaken.

## 6. ANTIBIOTIC STOCKPILING

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An analysis of antibiotics stockpiles was conducted by staff in Pharmaceutical Services Division of the Ministry of Health Services. The analysis concluded that stockpiling during the current 2009/2010 influenza season is not necessary in community and acute care settings, due to low anticipated demand and sufficient anticipated capacity in the current supply chain.

Community and acute care pharmacies are encouraged to check their antibiotic inventories and adequately replenish, as required, those recommended antibiotics that are typically dispensed by individual pharmacies. This is a precautionary measure to ensure that pharmacies are prepared with their typical inventory.

## 7. CRITICAL CARE DRUGS STOCKPILING

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A similar question for critical care and “crash cart” drugs was asked of the Critical Care Working Group under the leadership of staff in the Health Authorities Division of the Ministry of Health Services. After discussion, the

working group members concluded that although they anticipated additional demand, stockpiling at this time is not necessary due to sufficient anticipated capacity in the current supply chain.

## 8. FURTHER INFORMATION

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For further information please contact your local Supply Chain Branch office.