



The role of pharmacists in biological defense and emergency response through immunization administration



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Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA)

- Formed in 2006 and overseen by HHS.
- BARDA's responsibilities include:
 - Coordinating the national strategy for defense against bioterrorism
 - Overseeing the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)

Pharmacist's Role

- Community pharmacists serve as point of distribution and public health ambassador.
- Hospital pharmacists serve to triage and respond to MASCAL event.
- Others may serve through volunteer roles with NDMS, MRC, and other organizations.

COVID-19

- Realtime crises in which we see many needs materializing.
- Increased authority of pharmacists include:

Screening and testing patients to detect infection.

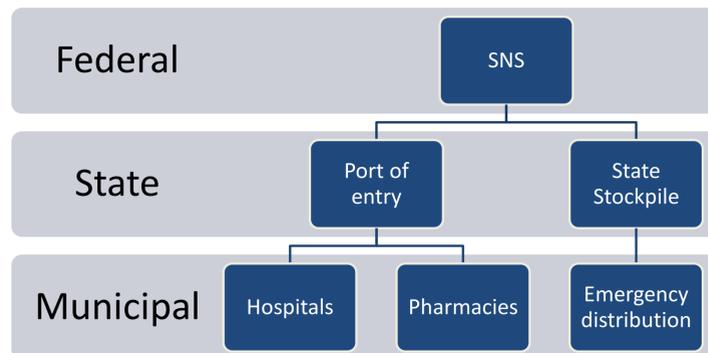
Administering COVID-19 vaccine to patients when FDA issues EUA for one.

Administering all vaccinations to patients 3 years of age and older.

Utilizing in-place logistical network of community pharmacies for vaccine distribution.

Providing up to date information to the public regarding risk mitigation and treatment options.

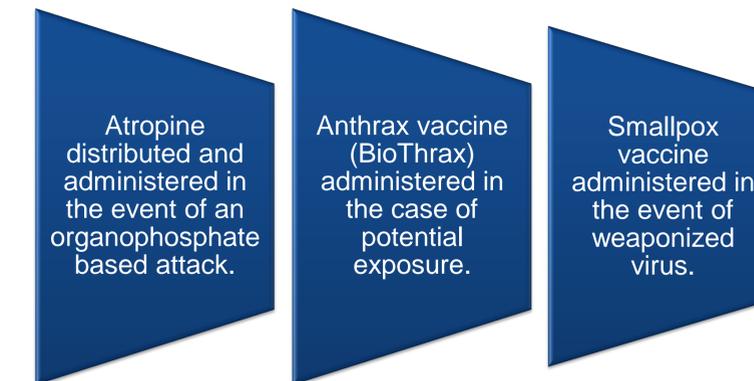
Emergency Distribution of Medication



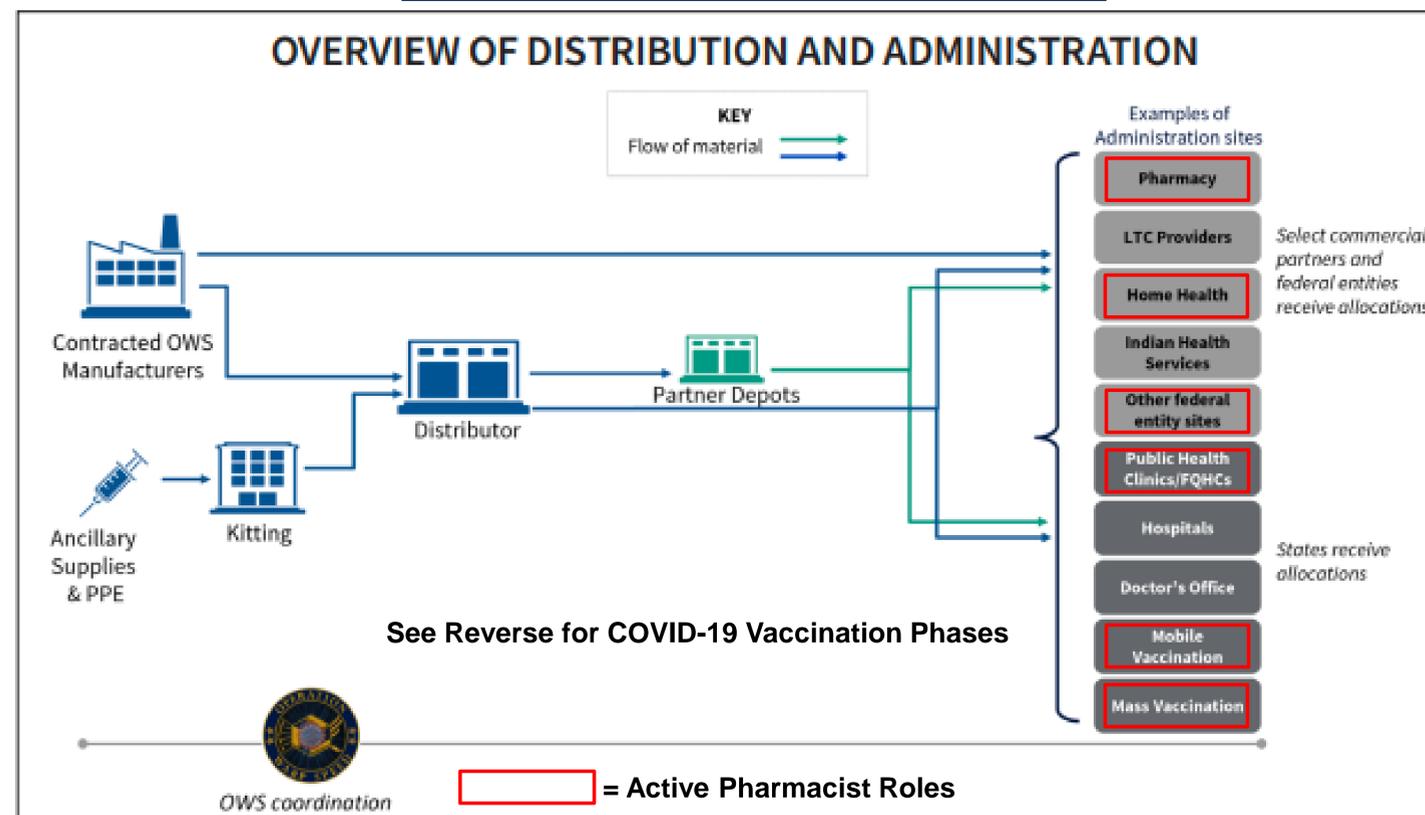
- Regional need based realized or actualized threat dictates flow of resources from SNS.
- BARDA ships required medications and durable items to the states via privatized and military assets.
- McKesson is the current supplier for the ongoing Operation Warp Speed, as they won a bid in 2016 for all pandemic response operations.
- The flow chart below from the CDC illustrates the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine.

CBRN Response

- Services provided by pharmacists are essential in the case of an act of war against the nation, including:



COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution



From the Factory to the Frontlines The Operation Warp Speed Strategy for Distributing a COVID-19 Vaccine. (n.d.). HHS.gov. <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/strategy-for-distributing-covid-19-vaccine.pdf>

Natural Disaster Response

- The CDC has issued guidance for evacuees from natural disasters in order to prevent the spread of communal infections, including:



Acronyms

- CBRN – Chemical, Biological, Radioactive, and Nuclear
- CDC – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- COVID-19 – Coronavirus Disease 2019
- EUA – Emergency Use Authorization
- FDA – Food and Drug Administration
- FQHC – Federally Qualified Health Center
- HHS – Department of Health and Human Services
- LTC – Long Term Care
- MASCAL – Mass Casualty Event
- MRC – Medical Reserve Corps
- NDMS – National Disaster Medical System
- OWS – Operation Warp Speed

References on Reverse

COVID-19 Vaccination Phasing

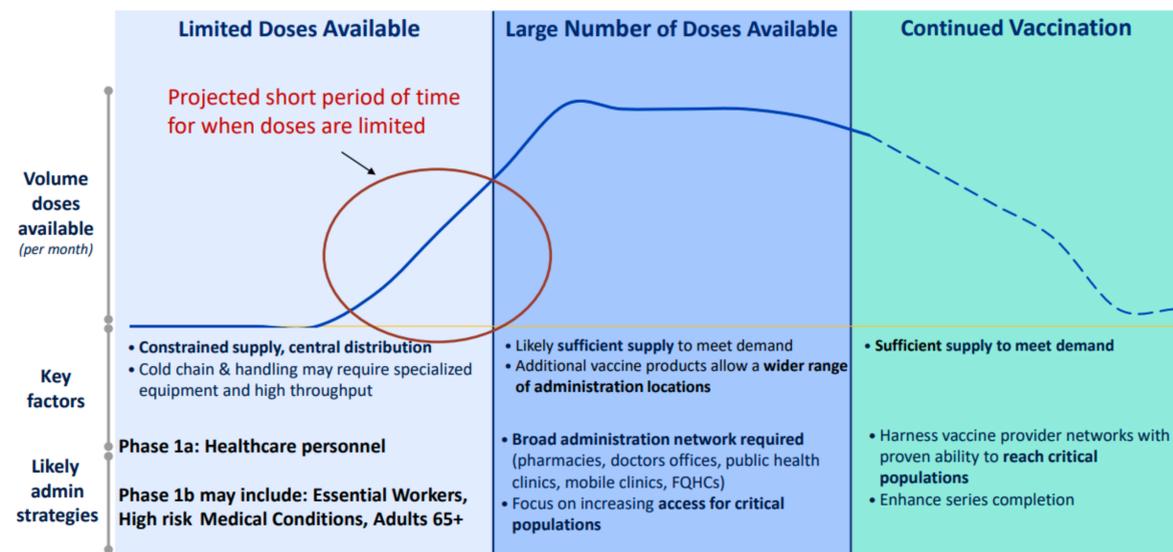
Phase 1a: Healthcare Workers (including Pharmacists)

Phase 1b: Essential workers, People 65 years of age and older, Individuals with significant comorbidities

Phase 2: General Population

Phase 3: Continuing Vaccination

ACIP Working Group's Projection of Dose Availability and Phasing



Administration of COVID-19 vaccine will require a phased approach (2020, September 22) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/meetings/downloads/slides-2020-09/COVID-07-Dooling.pdf>

The role of pharmacists in biological defense and emergency response through immunization administration

Abstract:

The purpose of this project is to outline the duties and responsibilities of pharmacists as they pertain to bolstering the national biological defense by means of preventative immunizations and active response to ongoing biological threats of either weaponized or naturally occurring pathogens.

Background and Proposal:

In 2006, Congress and President George W. Bush signed the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act into law which established the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) within the Department of Human and Health Services (DHHS). The role of BARDA is to integrate and coordinate the national strategy for defense against bioterrorism and oversee the strategic national stockpile. In response to a biological threat, pharmacists are essential, ensuring appropriate storage and distribution of vaccines as well as immunizing the general population. This dual role is critical to the large-scale coordination and distribution that is required in an emergency. Currently, we are witnessing the expanded role of pharmacists in response to the ongoing SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. As pharmacists, we need to understand our roles as they pertain to BARDA's national defense strategy and be at the highest level of preparedness to ensure rapid response. In September 2020, the CDC released guidance for COVID-19 immunization of critical personnel as soon as late October. Pharmacies around the country will begin to distribute the vaccine as they provide a robust logistical network.

Additionally, pharmacists are uniquely positioned within some of the most vulnerable communities; they can engage underserved populations with the goal of increasing immunization rates. Nearly 40% of community pharmacies serve communities of less than 10,000 people. Thus, the most effective way to protect many of America's rural communities is through pharmacist delivered immunizations. This means we should ensure that all pharmacists and interns are properly trained and certified to administer vaccinations. It is also essential to be proactive in promoting immunization services before an emergency, so there are fewer people who require routine vaccinations. Recently, the DHHS authorized pharmacists across the United States to immunize children three years of age and older to ensure herd immunity is maintained throughout the pandemic. The DHHS also authorized pharmacists and interns to administer the COV-19 vaccine once it is available. This, like the expansion of childhood immunization authority, will overrule state laws that may preempt it. However, as vaccine administration increases, there needs to be a workflow adjustment so that at least one pharmacist or intern can quickly and safely immunize patients without delaying other responsibilities. One possibility is offering stand alone pharmacist-led immunization clinics where a large number of people can receive vaccination(s). The reality of the present is becoming the crisis that BARDA was created for and we are seeing the huge role that pharmacists play in this national strategy through our immunization abilities, which are expanding faster than ever before. Through these efforts the biological defense of the nation is strengthened, and we are more able to handle crises when they occur.

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