



CITIES READINESS INITIATIVE (CRI)

What is CRI?

The Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) is a federally-funded program designed to aid major U.S. cities and metropolitan areas to effectively respond during a large-scale public health emergency. An example of such an emergency is a bioterrorism attack that would require health officials to dispense antibiotics to an identified population within 48 hours.

The CRI is a component of the Strategic National Stockpile with a more localized focus. (See Strategic National Stockpile Fact Sheet for more information.) CRI is a collaborative, multi-jurisdictional effort among local, state, county and federal authorities. Key federal agencies include:

- The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Division of Strategic National Stockpile (DSNS)

Within the State of Delaware, Delaware Health and Social Services (DHSS), Division of Public Health (DPH) serves as the lead agency representing State and local interests.

CRI Expansion:

CRI began in 2004 with 21 pilot cities. It expanded in 2005 to 36 cities. In 2006, CRI further expanded to 72 cities, allowing the program to extend to all 50 states. CRI cities and metropolitan areas are selected based on population, geographical location, and potential vulnerability to a bioterrorism threat. Dover is the designated CRI city in Delaware. The City of Wilmington and its surrounding area is part of the City of Philadelphia's CRI initiative.

How will CRI resources be dispensed to the public?

Medications may be dispensed through various methods, depending on the situation. In most cases, the U.S. Postal Service may bring medications directly to your home, school or business. DPH may establish Neighborhood Emergency Help Centers (NEHCs) and/or Points of Distribution (POD) in your community to assist with mass dispensing to the public. (See the fact sheet, "Neighborhood Emergency Help Centers.")