

# Best Practices for Cross-Jurisdictional Distribution of Tribal Medical Countermeasures

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Tribal Public Health Emergency Preparedness Conference  
May 18, 2018



**American Indian Health Commission**  
*for Washington State*

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for Washington State

# About Us

## **Pulling Together for Wellness**

We are a Tribally-driven, non-profit organization providing a forum for the twenty-nine tribal governments and two urban Indian health programs in Washington State to work together to improve health outcomes for American Indians and Alaska Natives.



Why is collaboration between tribes, local governments, and the state **vital** to community health and safety?





Public health  
issues,  
emergencies, and  
disasters know **no**  
**boundaries**





# Collaboration and Preparedness

The unfolding of a public health emergency is a poor time to begin learning how to collaborate with neighboring jurisdictions and understanding their capabilities and available resources



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## **2009 H1N1 Influenza Outbreak & the Failure to Deliver Medical Countermeasures to Some WA Tribes**

A small number of Washington tribes made plans to administer vaccine to elders before children. Some local health jurisdictions (LHJs) responsible for coordinating delivery of vaccines and antivirals to tribes argued this approach would be in conflict with CDC guidelines. On that basis, those LHJs did not distribute the tribes' allocated MCMs to the tribes.





# **Medical Countermeasures Overview**

# Public Health Threats

*Chemical  
Biological  
Radiological  
Nuclear*



*Pandemic  
Influenza*



*Emerging  
Diseases*

**EMERGING & RE-EMERGING  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES**



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## What are Medical Countermeasures (MCM)?

- Medical treatments or prophylaxes for public health threats
- Supplies, equipment, pharmaceuticals and other items needed to treat or protect against public health threats



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# Tribal MCM Distribution: Existing Guidance



“It is vital that state and local planners coordinate with their tribal populations to ensure everyone in the affected communities has access to MCMs during an incident”\*

\*“Receiving, Distributing, and Dispensing Strategic National Stockpile Assets: A Guide to Preparedness, *Version 11*, p. 5-6.



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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) holds large quantities of potentially life-saving pharmaceuticals and medical supplies to protect the public in the event that local supplies cannot meet the immediate needs of a public health emergency.



# Distribution of Medical Countermeasures to Tribes

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Each time an incident occurs, a tribe has the sovereign authority to choose how medical countermeasures are distributed to their community by federal, state, and or local governments



# State and Local Health Jurisdiction Role in Distribution of Medical Countermeasures to Tribes

“For state and local jurisdictions that include military installations, ***tribal nations***, and federal agencies, a unique set of challenges can arise for coordinating the receipt, distribution, and dispensing of MCMs. While planners sometimes mistakenly believe that these unique jurisdictions are autonomous or will be covered by federal agencies during an emergency, ***responsibility for these entities actually falls to the state and local jurisdictions in which they are located.***”\*



\*“Receiving, Distributing, and Dispensing Strategic National Stockpile Assets: A Guide to Preparedness, Version 11, p. 5-6.



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# State and Local Health Jurisdiction Role in Distribution of Medical Countermeasures to Tribes

- States are responsible for ensuring that MCMs are distributed to Tribes\*
- In Washington, the State has committed to distributing MCMs directly to each of the tribes or coordinating with federal and/or local health jurisdictions to distribute MCMs to tribes.



\*“Receiving, Distributing, and Dispensing Strategic National Stockpile Assets: A Guide to Preparedness, *Version 11*, p. 5-6.

# Federal Government (SNS) → Washington State

## OPTION 1 Tribe → State

TRIBE  
sends staff  
and vehicle  
to pick up  
MCM at  
STATE RSS  
location

## OPTION 2 State → Tribe

STATE  
delivers  
directly to  
TRIBAL  
location

## OPTION 3 State → LHJ → Tribe

STATE delivers Tribal  
allocation to Local  
Health Jurisdiction (LHJ)

TRIBE and LHJ  
coordinate hand-  
over of MCMs to  
TRIBE

## OPTION 4 Tribe Contacts Feds (CDC)

Delivery of MCMs  
to tribes will occur,  
dependent upon  
the facts and  
circumstances of  
the incident,  
through federal  
coordination with  
the State or other  
entity\*



# **2017-2018 Cross-Jurisdictional Collaboration Project Overview**

# Project Goal

Assure the appropriate amount and type of medical countermeasures (MCM) and materiel reach every tribe quickly during public health emergencies





# Project Objectives

Provide clearer guidance to tribes and local health jurisdictions on Tribal MCM distribution



Strengthen collaboration and mutual aid between Tribes and non-Tribal partners



Enhance each region's ability to manage and distribute medical countermeasures and materiel

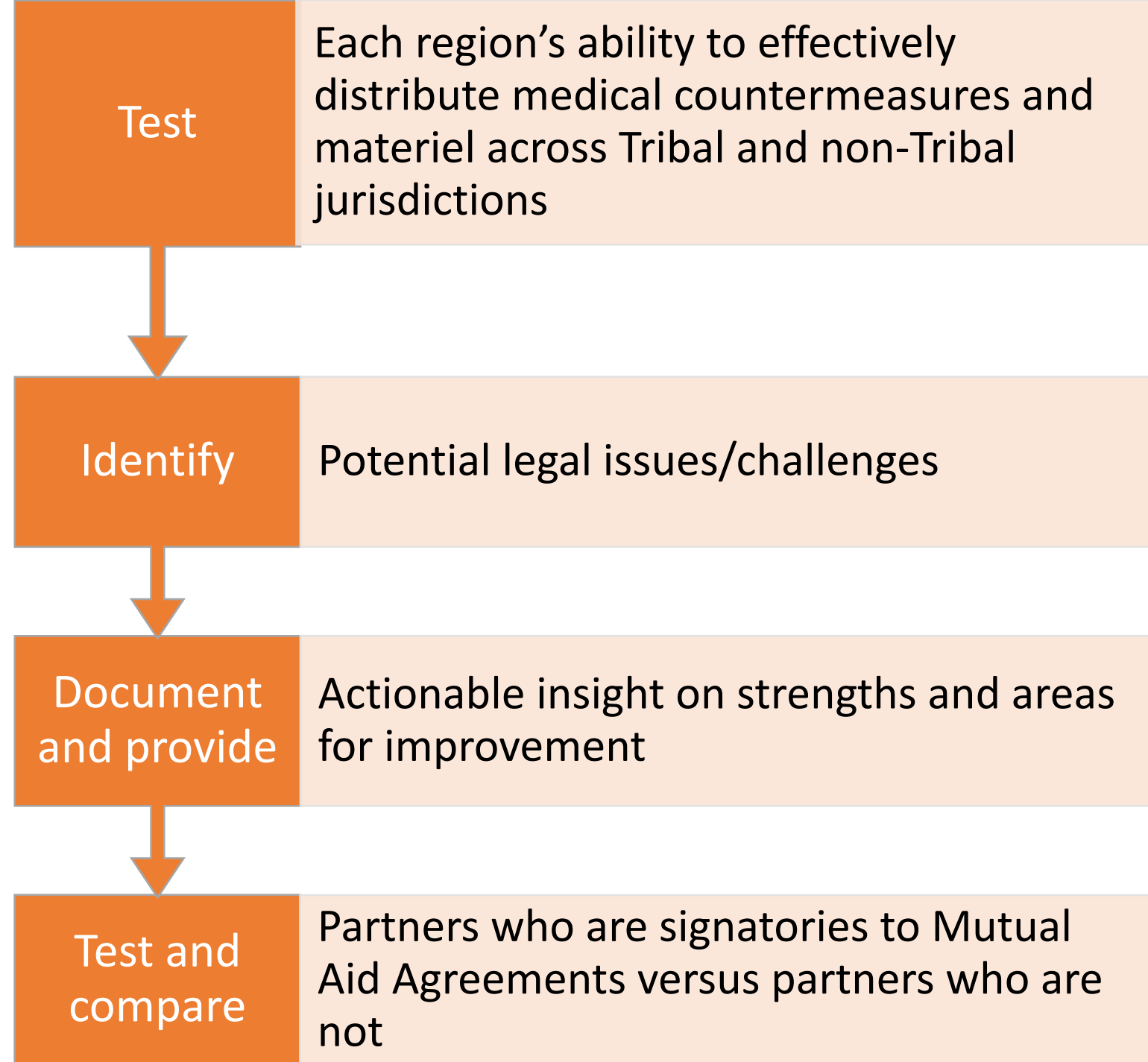




## 9 Regional Tribal-LHHJ-DOH MCM Distribution Planning Meetings

- Review options for MCM distribution
- Increase partners' understanding of each others' capacity, organization, resources, etc.
- Plan a tabletop exercise

## 9 Regional Tribal-LHJ-DOH MCM Distribution Tabletop Exercise





# Project Products

- Tribal MCM Distribution Guidance
- Partner profiles
- Tabletop exercise scenario
- After-Action Reports
- Final project report
- Recommendations

# DOH Tribal Medical Countermeasures Distribution Guidance

The purpose of this document is to:

- (1) Provide guidance to tribes and local health jurisdictions on distribution of medical countermeasures to tribes in collaboration with federal, state, and local governments.
- (2) provide tribes with detailed information on the **four options** for distribution of MCMs to their community; and





# Cross-Jurisdictional Collaboration Project UPDATE

- 8 Planning meetings held

- Region 1
- Region 2
- Region 3
- Region 4
- Region 6
- Region 7
- Region 8
- Region 9

- 3 Tabletop Exercises completed

- Region 2
- Region 3
- Region 4





# **Best Practices for Cross-Jurisdictional Collaboration in Medical Countermeasures Distribution**



## **TRIBAL MCM DISTRIBUTION PREPAREDNESS: BEST PRACTICES**

1. Provide opportunities for tribes, local health jurisdictions and state agencies to learn each others' plans, capabilities, and resources, and develop collaborative relationships
2. Review federal and state guidance on tribal MCM distribution; identify and address gaps
3. Assure tribes have detailed information about the options available to them for MCM distribution

# **TRIBAL MCM DISTRIBUTION**

## **PREPAREDNESS: BEST PRACTICES**

4. Advocate for federal and state guidance that includes information on tribal sovereignty and clarifies that the role of local governments is to hand over MCM to tribes, not to assert authority regarding distribution and/or dispensing.
5. Enter into Mutual Aid Agreement with other governments



# TRIBAL MCM DISTRIBUTION

## PREPAREDNESS: BEST PRACTICES



6. Tribes determine the population they intend to serve during MCM events and discuss with DOH and LHJ
7. Plan for how the various jurisdictions will communicate during MCM events, including system to regularly update contact information, processes and procedures for sharing information, etc.



