

# Tennessee Antiviral Distribution Network

## 2009 H1N1 Response

### **Background Information**

The 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic has created a higher demand for antiviral medications such as Tamiflu® and Relenza®. The State of Tennessee will release antiviral medications from the state's cache to increase access for the uninsured and under-insured.

### **Antiviral Distribution Network**

The Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) is developing an Antiviral Distribution Network as a primary mechanism for distribution of the state's emergency cache of antiviral medications. Community pharmacies will play a key role in the effective distribution of these antiviral medications.

### **All Community Pharmacies Are Encouraged to Participate**

All community pharmacies are welcome and encouraged to participate in the Tennessee Antiviral Distribution Network. The main considerations for selecting which specific pharmacy stores within each community will receive TDH Stockpile will be geographic location, population demographics, and the distribution and severity of disease. The goal is to create a network that will enhance distribution and convenience to Tennesseans through a balance of community and independent pharmacy partners. All participating community pharmacies will be required to sign a no-cost contract with the TDH.

### **Distribution of Antiviral Medications**

The antiviral medications will be distributed to participating pharmacies from the State to pre-determined and agreed upon ship-to locations. The TDH will retain ultimate control of when and how much inventory is released from the state's antiviral cache.

### **Dispensing of Antiviral Medications**

The dispensing of TDH Stockpile antiviral medications from the pharmacies will be accomplished using the traditional medical model. Patients will obtain prescriptions from prescribing medical providers and then take the prescriptions to participating pharmacies in order to receive medications from the state's antiviral cache. Patients who have valid prescriptions specifying TDH Stockpile may be dispensed medication from the state's antiviral cache. Likewise, should a patient or a patient's caregiver express that the patient cannot pay for the medication; the pharmacy may dispense medication from the state's antiviral cache.

### **Conditions of Participation for Pharmacies**

- The participating pharmacies will receive the antiviral medications from the state's antiviral cache at no charge.
- These antiviral medications will be dispensed at no charge to patients who present valid prescriptions.
- A usual and customary dispensing fee may be charged by the dispensing pharmacy to the patient.
- Should the patient or patient's caregiver express that the patient cannot pay the dispensing fee, the pharmacy shall not charge the dispensing fee.
- The participating pharmacies will maintain the TDH Stockpile inventory of antivirals physically separate from the community pharmacy's inventory.
- The participating pharmacies will maintain the TDH Stockpile of antivirals in a safe and secure location during distribution, storage, and dispensing.
- Participating pharmacies will need to submit reports about quantities of TDH Stockpile antiviral medication dispensed and on-hand.

### **To Register with the Tennessee Antiviral Distribution Network**

- Email: [SNS.Response@tn.gov](mailto:SNS.Response@tn.gov)
- Phone: (866) 327-9106

### **Additional Information**

•Available at the Tennessee Department of Health Web site: [www.tn.gov/health](http://www.tn.gov/health) under H1N1 Influenza section. Click on the Pharmacy Locator to view a listing of participating pharmacies by county.

*Confidentiality: All information provided by the Tennessee Department of Health regarding TDH Stockpile antiviral medications is strictly confidential. This includes, but is not limited to, any information about TDH Stockpile antiviral medication supply, storage, distribution, and dispensing. All information provided by participating community pharmacies (i.e. levels of TDH Stockpile dispensed and on-hand, distribution channels, etc.) will remain strictly confidential. This information will only be shared with key emergency response professionals and will be done so under strict confidence.*