



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Routt County Receives Third Shipment of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Other Supplies from the Strategic National Stockpile**

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STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, April 3, 2020 — On Friday, April 3, Routt County, the Regional Distribution Point for seven counties on the Western Slope, received its third shipment of supplies from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). Supplies include personal protective equipment such as N-95 face masks, protective eyewear, gowns, and other supplies. Each shipment is divided up among the seven counties of Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Moffat, Rio Blanco, Routt, and Summit.

After Governor Polis declared a state of emergency, shipments from the SNS became available for all of Colorado. Routt County has received three shipments from the SNS since the state of emergency was declared. The first shipment came on March 23, the second on March 27, and the third on April 3. All three shipments were loaded on trucks in Denver and transported to the distribution point in Routt County at UCHHealth Yampa Valley Medical Center.

In 2017, Routt County and UCHHealth Yampa Valley Medical Center entered into a partnership to become the Regional Distribution Point for the seven counties of Eagle, Grand, Jackson, Moffat, Rio Blanco, Routt, and Summit. “This partnership allows us to get needed resources quickly to Northwest Colorado. We have two effective distribution methods with the counties. One is called the pull method where each county comes to the distribution center at UCHHealth and picks up their supplies, and the other is the push method where we deliver the supplies to each county,” said Jim Johnsen, Northwest Colorado Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional staff person. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services fund Johnsen’s position.

Each county gets an allocation based on population, and supplies are prioritized for health care workers, first responders, law enforcement, and those working with vulnerable populations.

During the COVID-19 crisis, additional supplies are always needed. “In the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), we are always planning and preparing. In addition to the supplies from the SNS, we purchased personal protective equipment from commercial suppliers to supplement our inventory. We expect those deliveries in the next day or two,” said David “Mo” DeMorat, EOC Manager and Routt County Emergency Operations Director.

Over the course of the COVID-19 crisis, Northwest Colorado expects more supplies from the Strategic National Stockpile.

**NOTE:** Photos will be provided when we receive them.

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## Per the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers (ASTHO)

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The Public Health Service Act authorizes the secretary of Health and Human Services, in coordination with the secretary of Homeland Security, to maintain a stockpile of drugs, vaccines, and other medical products and supplies, known as the [Strategic National Stockpile \(SNS\)](#), to provide for the emergency health security of the United States and its territories.<sup>1,2</sup>

### WHAT THE SNS PROGRAM DOES

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The SNS program is designed to supplement and resupply state and local inventories of medicines and supplies during emergencies severe enough to exhaust local supplies.<sup>3</sup> Decisions about what medicines and materiel should be included in the SNS are made by the [HHS Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response \(ASPR\)](#), the HHS, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the CDC, in consultation with state and local public health officials and private sector organizations and entities. In determining and reviewing the composition of SNS assets, the HHS and the CDC look at multiple factors, including the medical vulnerability of the U.S. population (and of [at-risk populations](#) such as children and other vulnerable populations), current biological/chemical threats, the availability of medicines and medical supplies, and the ease of disseminating specific medicines.<sup>4</sup>

<https://www.astho.org/Programs/Preparedness/Public-Health-Emergency-Law/Emergency-Use-Authorization-Toolkit/Strategic-National-Stockpile-Fact-Sheet/>

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