



NEIGHBORHOOD EMERGENCY HELP CENTERS (NEHC)

What are NEIGHBORHOOD EMERGENCY HELP CENTERS (NEHCs)?

A Neighborhood Emergency Help Center (NEHC) is a Division of Public Health (DPH) facility that serves as a gateway into the health care system in the event of a disaster or public health emergency (i.e. pandemic influenza outbreak) affecting large numbers of persons.

NEHCs provide medical information, medications and/or vaccine to prevent illness. A single NEHC can process up to 2,000 people per hour, depending upon the agent. Other facilities such as hospitals and Acute Care Centers treat ill persons.

Medications:

Medication provided at the NEHCs is free to the public. The NEHC medications are supplied by the State's Pharmaceutical Stockpile and/or the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). The SNS is a national repository of stockpiled medication and equipment available to Delaware within 12 hours of an event.

NEHC Locations:

The locations of the NEHCs will be advertised through local media.

Staffing:

Staff at NEHCs may include nurses, pharmacists, mental health counselors and other medical professionals. Language interpretation is also available at the NEHCs.

What to Expect?

Persons arriving at the NEHC are initially screened and treated based on their needs. After completing registration forms, medication and/or vaccine are provided. Also given are instructions and educational material about the medication, vaccine and disease. It is encouraged that one member of the household complete individual registrations for all members of the household and pick up medications for all members of the household.