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Office of the Mayor

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City of Stamford Participates in Statewide Exercise on Managing Medications

STAMFORD, CT – From Tuesday, April 22, 2014 through Thursday April 24, 2014, the Connecticut Department of Health (CT DPH) in conjunction with other State Departments, local municipalities and health systems throughout CT, conducted a full-scale exercise to test the State's ability to receive emergency medical supplies from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), organize the supplies and deliver them to local entities throughout the State.

The CDC's Strategic National Stockpile is the United States' national repository of medical supplies to protect the American public if there is a public health emergency. These supplies will be provided in events severe enough to cause local supplies to deplete, such as a terrorist attack, pandemic influenza outbreak, or an earthquake. This program provides an initial delivery to the State within twelve hours of a request from the State.

As part of this exercise, the State requested assets from the CDC on April 22, 2014. Supplies were received on April 23, 2014. CT DPH opened a warehouse in Bloomfield, CT to receive and organize the supplies from the CDC. These supplies were delivered on April 24, 2014 to local health departments throughout Connecticut and healthcare systems.

The City of Stamford, in addition to ordering the supplies and receiving the supplies, organized a local exercise as well. Emergency response agencies organized at the City's Emergency Operation Center for a debriefing. The Stamford Department of Health & Social Services led the debriefing, playing out the State's exercise involving a disease outbreak. According to Anne Fountain, Director of Health & Social Services for the City of Stamford, "We thought it would be a great opportunity to expand on the State's drill, by exercising our local response. We had all response agencies involved including Stamford Hospital." Thaddeus Jankowski, Director of Public Safety, Health & Welfare commented, "Emergency preparedness and response is a priority for the Office of Public Safety. Participation in this State drill allowed us to expand on our training to improve communications and planning for a coordinated response. "

The exercise will conclude Thursday afternoon. Other agencies participating in the exercise include the State Department of Emergency Management and Homeland

Security, the Connecticut Military Department, State Police, Department of Corrections, local health departments, and healthcare systems throughout Connecticut.

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