Chempack, MERC and SNS (DIS M-23) Policy
Executive Summary

What is the Chempack and what is it used for?

- Chempack includes nerve agent antidotes and related medical supplies to respond to Sarin, Soman, Tabun or VX. It can also be used on victims with organophosphate contamination.
- 2 types of containers – hospital sized (treat 1,000 casualties) or EMS specific (treat 454 casualties).
    - Upstate has both types, a hospital and EMS chempack.
- The Chempack is a CDC supported and forward deployed asset.
- March 2012 CDC approves opening the Chempack *regardless* of number of casualties (nerve agent or organophosphate) – We can open it for just one patient if needed.

Who has the authority to open the Chempack?

- Centers for Disease Control
- New York State Department of Health
- Onondaga County Health Department Commissioner
- Onondaga County Office of Emergency Management
- Pharmacy
- SUNY Upstate Department of Emergency Management
- Attending Physician of ED (Downtown/Community Campuses)

What facilities are spokes of Upstate's Chempack?

 NYSDOH's planning strategy allows any emergency responders to quickly identify and remove predetermined quantities of antidotes and deliver them to any designated hospital Emergency Department or scene for use by EMS. In this way one central Hub storage location (SUNY Upstate) will support several (Spoke) hospitals in close proximity. ***This is known as the hub-and-spoke concept***. A distribution key or legend, explaining the labeling will be posted on the door of the container: Currently SUNY Upstate at Community Campus is a spoke hospital for the Downtown Campus as well as being the storage location for the EMS pack.

Where is the Chempack located? SUNY Upstate Downtown Campus basement

Note: Associated costs of administered Chempack assets cannot be charged to the victim. The Chempack, MERC and SNS Policy DIS M-23 also includes request information and process related to the NYS Department of Health's Medical Emergency Response Cache (MERC) and the Strategic National Stockpile.