

Key elements for pandemic preparedness storage planning

The COVID-19 pandemic is emphasizing the need for preparedness plans that address how healthcare facilities can best manage inventory in a future crisis. This includes predicting the amount of days of inventory on hand (DIOH) needed, how much space is required to store it, and how it can be accessed in a crisis.

As you plan your pandemic preparedness storage needs, consider these three key elements:

1 Use available tools: What products are most important? How much should I have on hand?



In pandemic scenarios, personal protective equipment (PPE) products are in high demand across all use cases, including **diagnosis, protection and treatment**



The Cardinal Health PPE Blueprint* highlights **37 product categories** across those use categories with significant demand spikes during COVID-19 and other pandemics



Strategize your PPE needs using the CDC's recommendations on **surge capacity**, defined as **"the ability to manage a sudden increase in patient volume that would otherwise severely challenge or exceed the present capacity of a facility"**



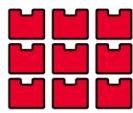
Develop an understanding of your facility's PPE utilization rate using CDC's [PPE Burn Rate Calculator](#)

2 Locate sufficient space: How much space do I need? How should I store my hospital's products?

Be mindful of the amount of space needed for up to 90 days of inventory on hand

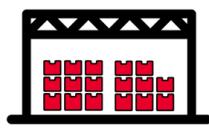
Many states have mandated 14-90 DIOH

90 days of PPE inventory for a **stand-alone 350 bed hospital** would be approximately:



260 pallets/3,500 sq. ft. of warehouse space

90 days of PPE inventory for an **11 hospital IDN in a large metropolitan market (~5,000 beds)** would be approximately:



3,700 pallets/50,000 sq. ft. of warehouse space

The Cardinal Health **inventory space calculator*** can identify the number of pallets and square feet needed for your PPE needs.

Be mindful of how to store your PPE

DIOH requirements vary from state to state, so ensure all guidelines are accounted for when locating space



Hand sanitizer can be considered a **hazardous material** and require special storage (chemical vault and/or fire suppression)



IV solutions require **temperature and humidity control** in some states



Some medical/surgical items are considered regulated and require **special state licensing** to ship the product

3 Get the right support: Who are you working with to meet your logistical needs?

Why logistics are important for a stockpile



Inventory management: a stockpile will still need to run like a distribution center — maintaining proper reconciliation, lot and expiration date tracking, and proper product rotation



Labor: an added space will require additional management to facilitate the logistics of the stockpile

The advantages of working with a healthcare distributor



Full knowledge of healthcare logistics is vital when anticipating a fast-changing pandemic



A strategic healthcare distributor can work on your side to **identify and source solutions** even when products aren't available

Learn more about the Cardinal Health pandemic preparedness storage planning tools and other PPE resources available by talking to your local Cardinal Health sales representative.

Visit cardinalhealth.com/medicaldistribution if you need help connecting with someone.

For more information on how Cardinal Health is addressing COVID-19 and additional resources and tools, visit cardinalhealth.com/covid19.

Additional resources:

The CDC also has blueprints for responding to natural disasters such as [earthquakes](#), [floods](#), and more, on its [Natural Disaster and Severe Weather webpage](#). These plans highlight essential elements that must be considered to keep individuals safe and healthy when disaster strikes.

*A Cardinal Health sales representative can share these tools.