

# Project BioShield: Impacts on Public Health

## BioShield Stakeholders Workshop

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## Who is ASTHO?

- ASTHO is the national nonprofit organization representing the state and territorial public health agencies of the United States, the U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia.
- ASTHO's members are the chief health officials of these jurisdictions.
- ASTHO's members are dedicated to formulating, influencing and implementing sound public health policy, and to assuring excellence in state-based public health practice.

## Project BioShield and Public Health

- Local, state, and federal public health agencies will be at the front lines of administering medical countermeasures.
- Preparedness requires not only the development of effective countermeasures but the maintenance of a robust system to deliver and track the administration of MCMs and other interventions during an emergency.
- Shelf life and the ability to store, rotate, and transport drugs safely are very important to states who will be stockpiling these drugs or receiving them from the federal government as part of the SNS.
- Investments in medical countermeasures should focus on development of dual use technologies that can be applied to a broad range of threat agents.

## Project BioShield and Public Health

- We should not only focus on the development of medical countermeasures to treat disease, but on detection and diagnostic technology to identify threats where and when they occur at the individual and community levels.
- It is crucial for the state and local health agencies that these countermeasures have a low risk of adverse side effects and can be easily administered.
- Extra care should be taken to safeguard the development, delivery, and storage of MCMs against theft, tampering, abuse, black market sales, and other illegal activities.
- The Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) is a vital tool in the expedition and streamlining of critical countermeasure administrations as long as it has been determined, using best available data and scientific/medical judgment, that the benefits outweigh the risks.