



Strategic National Stockpile

Cities Readiness Initiative Overview



Purpose

- To review the rationale and ramifications supporting the Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) goal.
- Emphasize the importance of the planning and partnerships involved.
- To provide a mutual understanding of the POD's role in this initiative.

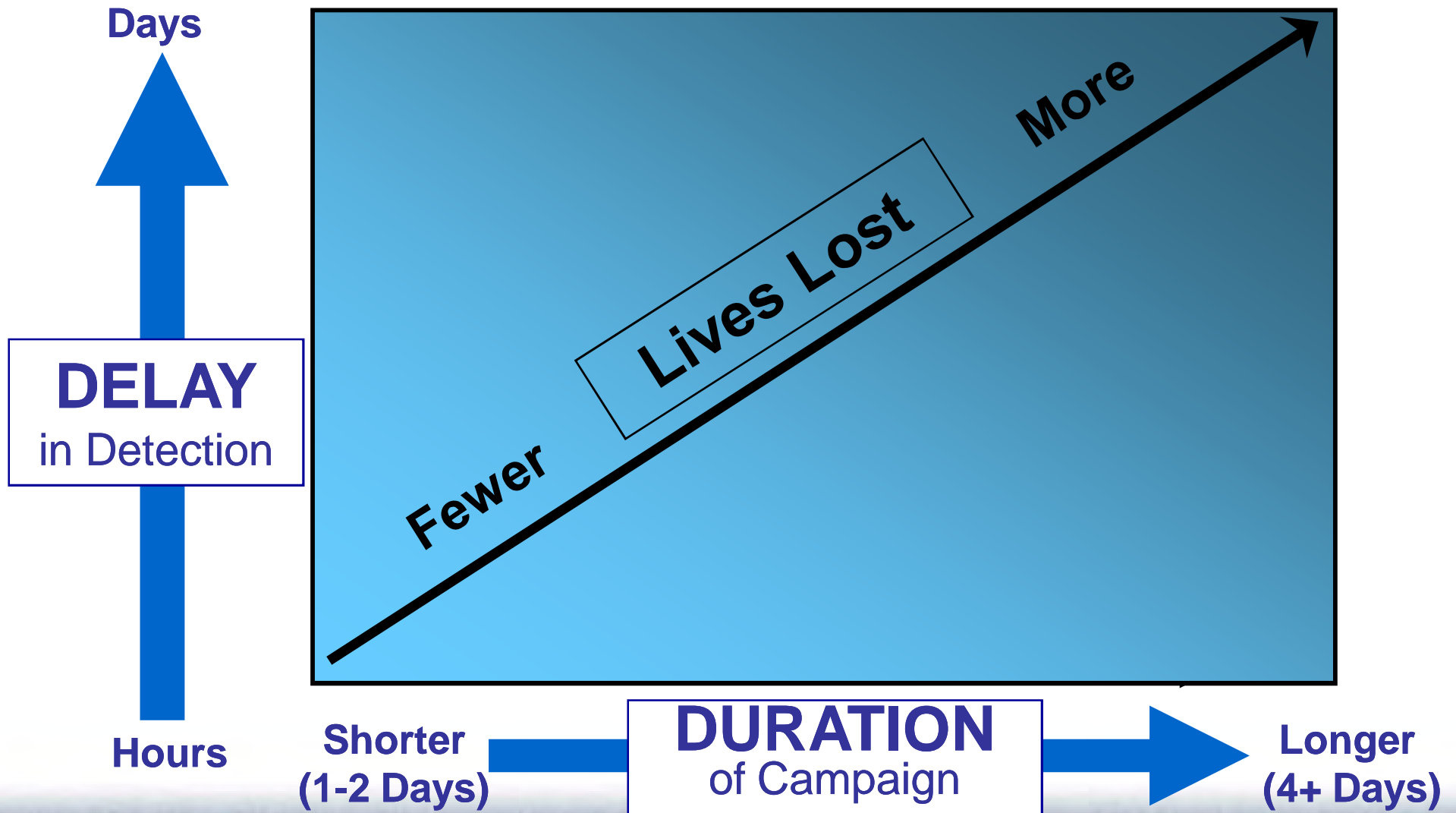
Vulnerability

U.S. intelligence agencies assess that a large-scale aerosol release of anthrax is “well within the technical capability of al-Qa’ida and other foreign or domestic terrorist organizations.”

Existing Technology

Aerial dispersion of anthrax over a large geographic area can be accomplished with commercially-available equipment.

Time is Critical



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Existing Preparedness

A survey, conducted in December, 2003, indicates that major U.S. cities are inadequately prepared to dispense oral medications during a large-scale event.

Cities Readiness Initiative

A pilot program to prepare 21 major U.S. cities to dispense needed drugs and medical supplies within 48 hours of the decision to do so.

Why Cities Readiness Initiative?

- Wide-spread dispersal is within current capabilities of terrorist groups.
- Current plans are inadequate.
- Potential for loss of life is catastrophic.

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CRI Goal

Distribute antibiotics to the at-risk population – up to the entire community within 48 hours of the decision to do so.

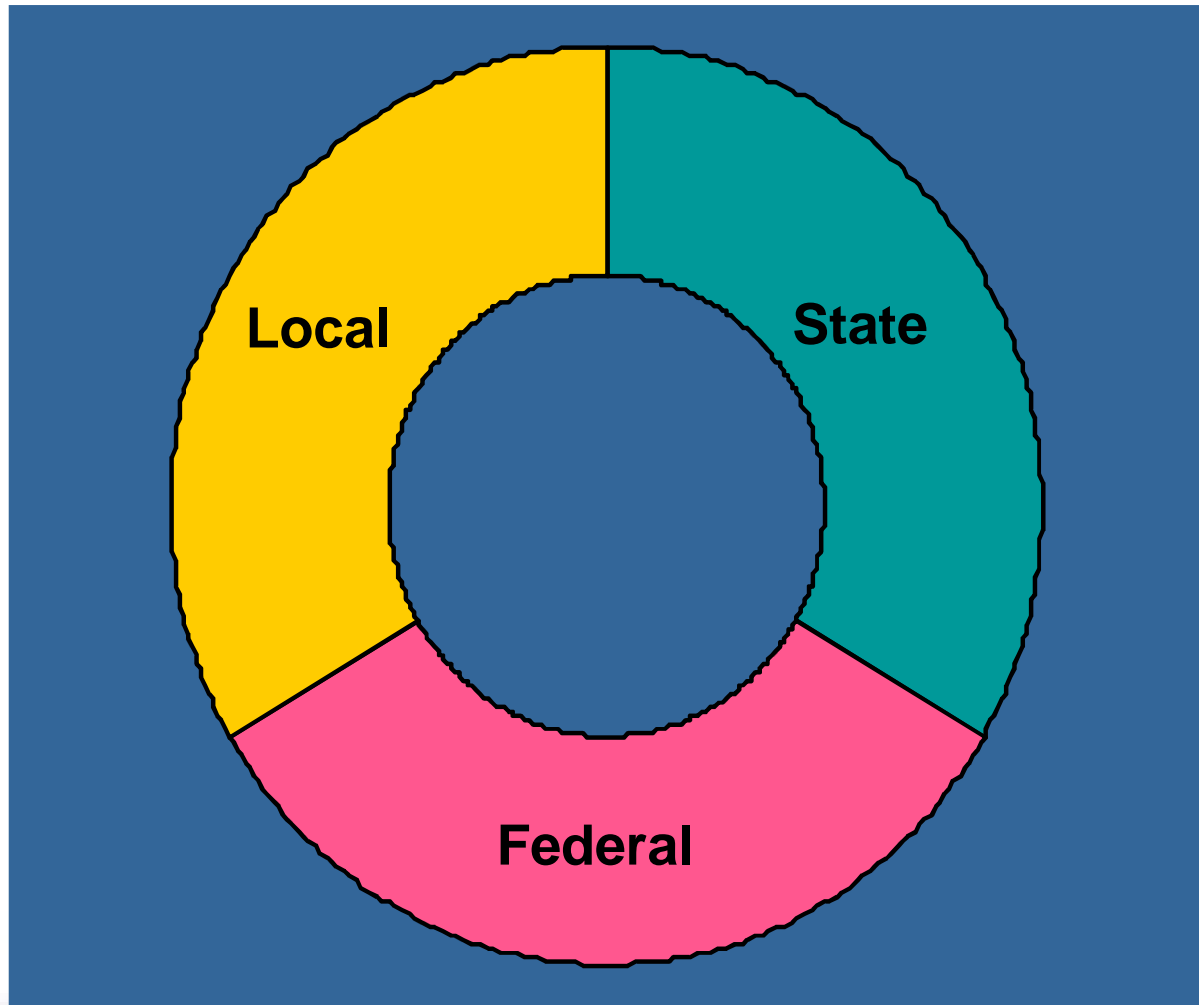
Cities Readiness Initiative

- Precise knowledge regarding when and how to expand local capability, as needed, with assets from:
 - neighboring jurisdictions
 - state government
 - federal government
- Contingency capability for USPS to deliver antibiotics directly to residences in the affected area when even an expanded local dispensing capability is likely to be insufficient.

CRI Planning Assumptions

- Response to outdoor anthrax release will drive planning.
- Prophylaxis must be offered to the “population at risk” within 48 hours to avert mass casualties.
- Uncertainty in epidemiology and modeling, in the early hours of response is likely to compel officials to offer prophylaxis broadly.

Essential Partnerships



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Questions?