



**OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
Department of Homeland Security

Washington, DC 20528 / [www.oig.dhs.gov](http://www.oig.dhs.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Monday, September 8, 2014

**For Information Contact:**  
Public Affairs (202) 254-4100

## **DHS Ill-prepared for Pandemic Response**

In 2006, Congress appropriated \$47 million in supplemental funding to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to plan, train, and prepare for a potential pandemic. An OIG audit has determined DHS cannot ensure it has sufficient personal protective equipment and antiviral medical countermeasures for a pandemic response.

The report, "DHS Has Not Effectively Manage Pandemic Personal Protective Equipment and Antiviral Medical Countermeasures," OIG-14-129, determined that DHS did not develop and implement stockpile replenishment plans or inventory controls to monitor stockpiles, have adequate contract oversight processes, or ensure compliance with Department guidelines. DHS also has no assurance that the supplies on hand remain effective.

For example, our auditors found that:

- DHS has a reported inventory of approximately 16 million surgical masks without demonstrating a need for that quantity;
- Personal protective equipment stockpiles include expired hand sanitizer. Out of 4,982 bottles we examined, 4,184 (84 percent) were expired, some by up to 4 years;
- 81 percent of antiviral drugs acquired by the DHS Office of Health Affairs Component will expire by the end of 2015; and
- DHS and its components do not know where its personal protective equipment is located, how much it has, and the usability of the stockpiles that exist.

"DHS is responsible for ensuring it is adequately prepared to continue critical operations in the event of a pandemic," said Inspector General John Roth. "I am pleased that department officials have concurred with the intent of the 11 recommendations made in the report. We will work with them to see that this vital program is strengthened."

Read Report: OIG 14-129-DHS Has Not Effectively Managed Pandemic Personal Protective Equipment and Antiviral Medical Countermeasures.

###

For more information visit our website, [www.oig.dhs.gov](http://www.oig.dhs.gov)