

Closed POD Planning

Partnering with Public Health

Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)

- In addition to a variety of key public health related preparedness activities, PHEP recipients are required to develop plans to receive, distribute and dispense medical countermeasures from the SNS to their affected populations during an emergency.



SNS and PODs (Points of Dispensing)

- As a partner to Public Health, your organization plays a critical role in our community's preparedness activities.
- Your willingness to operate a Closed POD during an emergency for your staff and their families, demonstrates your commitment to the national preparedness initiative.
- Public Health will match your commitment by providing technical assistance, planning tools and resources to help you develop your Closed POD plan.

Anthrax Scenario



Points of Dispensing

Public Health has created plans for activating Open PODs at pre-identified sites and include aspects such as communications with the public and emergency responders, transportation of supplies, floor plans, staffing needs, security and safety precautions, supplies, etc.

Closed PODs

- Closed PODs will play an important role when it is necessary to provide emergency medications to large groups of people.
- Public Health and medical providers will likely be overwhelmed.
- Closed PODs can help relieve some pressure by reaching specific portions of the community.
- Long lines and public anxiety can be reduced.

Closed POD Benefits

- Ease of access to life-saving medications
- Quick dispensing of medications to your staff and their families
- Enhanced continuity of operations



Roles and Responsibilities



Public Health Responsibilities

- Provide pre-event planning and technical assistance
- Provide Closed POD training/education opportunities to identified staff in your organization
- Provide medication and forms
- Provide 24-hour emergency contact info

Public Health Responsibilities, continued...

- Notify your organization of the need to activate your Closed POD plan
- Provide media guidance to ensure consistency of messaging
- Receive any unused medications and documentation once the Closed POD has been deactivated

Your Organization's Responsibilities

- Designate staff to work with Public Health in planning for the Closed POD
- Provide primary and secondary 24-hour emergency points of contact
- Develop a Closed POD plan and provide a copy to Public Health
- Identify Closed POD locations for your organization

Your Organization's Responsibilities, continued...

- Maintain the necessary supplies and equipment to operate a Closed POD
- Dispense medications following protocol and guidance provided by Public Health
- Participate in predetermined training and exercise opportunities

The Dispensing Process



Functions for Mass Dispensing

- Directing clients through the POD
- Deciding which medication to dispense
- Dispensing the medication
- Disseminating information about the medication



DIRECTING- How to get folks through the POD

- Time is of the essence. Informing your staff ahead of time, and soliciting volunteers to assist with operations is a key initial activity.
- Define your dispensing population- Employees, family members, clients?
- Throughput- Staff, flow, population, time



Deciding [Screening]

- Prior to receiving medication, each person must provide certain information
- Screening forms will be provided by Public Health (may be able to access online to be completed before arriving at the POD)
- Screening protocol (Pg. 9 of the guide)



Dispensing



- Head of Household policy- One person can pick up medication for their whole family
- Medical vs. Non-medical Model- Public Health will provide guidance on who can dispense medication. [Any vaccination POD will require a Medical Model for dispensing]

Disseminating- (Providing the necessary information/education forms and follow-up information)

- Drug Information and Instructions- Medication info, dosage, how to report adverse reactions
- Other Important Information- Possible threatening agents, exposure, symptoms, is it contagious, long-term implications, etc.

Developing a Closed POD Plan



Organize & Staff

- ◉ Appoint a Planning Committee- Consider HR personnel, medical advisors, logistics specialists, security staff, and your Public Health liaison.
- ◉ Determine Your Dispensing Population- Will you accommodate your employee's families? How will you define 'household'? Will you include contractors, clients, etc.?

Organize Your Staff

- ◉ Determine Organizational Structure- ICS
- ◉ Determine Staffing Needs
 - > Security needs and capabilities
 - > POD Operations Staff [Modeling tools? Determined by size of your dispensing population, desired throughput]
 - > Recruiting staff- Soliciting volunteers
 - > (Pg. 12 and 1-6 of your guide)

Prepare Your Facility

- ◉ Identify a Dispensing Location-
 - > Primary and alternate is recommended
 - > Fairly large, and open, such as a cafeteria or conference room
 - > Separate entrance and exit
 - > Easily identifiable
 - > Place to secure medications and supplies
 - > Accommodations for people with access or functional needs
 - > Accommodation of tables, chairs, and large number of people
 - > Moving people through in only one direction

Identify/Purchase/Store Supplies

"See Page 1-24 of the Workbook"



Develop Your Procedures

"Page 1-11 of the Workbook"

- ◉ Collaborate with Public Health
 - > Memorandum of Understanding/Healthcare & Safety Coalition Agreement
- ◉ Determine specific procedures related to activation, setup, operation, & deactivation
- ◉ Determine how medications will be received
- ◉ How leftover medications will be returned
- ◉ Procedures for handling small emergencies

Provide Education & Training

- Free Online Training
 - > FEMA's Basic ICS Courses (100/200/700)
 - > NACCHO Closed POD Partners Presentation
 - > University of Albany School of Public Health
 - Page 14 of your handbook
- Live Training
 - > Basic ICS classes twice a year locally
 - > DHV orientation and training for enrollees
 - > Take advantage of other training offered

Exercise Your Plan

- Helps to identify problems or gaps
- Internal training for your Closed POD staff
- Exercise jointly with Public Health



Questions?



Thank You!

By developing long-lasting relationships, government agencies will be more adept and prepared to respond to a potential public health emergency.

