

MASS DISPENSING: YOU COULD BE A CLOSED POINT OF DISPENSING TOO

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OBJECTIVE:

- ▶ The learner will identify the purpose of a “Closed Point of Dispensing” (POD) & the advantages to their facility & clients if they are a Closed POD.





WHAT IS A POD??

- ▶ “Points of Dispensing” (POD) is a mechanism for distribution of medicine and medical supplies to healthy people in the area of risk during a large-scale public health emergency. Medicines and/or other health-protecting supplies will be dispensed from a centralized location.

POINT OF DISPENSING



- ▶ Most local public health departments already have plans to use a system of open points of dispensing (open PODs) that will be established as needed at predetermined venues, such as schools or community centers. When a biological threat warrants the opening of PODs, public officials will direct residents to the open PODs to wait in line, along with their neighbors, for the medications needed.



POINT OF DISPENSING

- ▶ A POD may be established in response to:
 - ▶ Bioterrorism (BT) event
 - ▶ Natural Disaster
 - ▶ Response to an infectious disease outbreak
 - ▶ Radiological exposure

POINT OF DISPENSING



- ▶ The purpose of a POD is to medicate as many people as possible in a quick and efficient manner.



PURPOSE OF A POD

- ▶ The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) has large quantities of medicine and medical supplies to protect the American public if there is a public health emergency (terrorist attack, flu outbreak, earthquake) severe enough to cause local supplies to run out.

STRATEGIC NATIONAL STOCKPILE (SNS)



STRATEGIC NATIONAL STOCKPILE (SNS)



- ▶ Contents: antibiotics; antidotes; antitoxins; medical supplies for hospitals.
- ▶ Placed, by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), across the country in strategic locations.
- ▶ Ready to be moved to Ohio if needed.
- ▶ Requires local emergency responders to work together to set up vaccination or medication dispensing sites quickly.
- ▶ May require the dispensing of oral medications to the entire county within 48-hours.

PUBLIC HEALTH'S RESPONSE

- ▶ What this means to Southeast Ohio
 - 444,223 residents (2010 census)
 - To dispense medication to residents is a monumental task
- ▶ We can't do it alone



TWO CATEGORIES OF PODS



- ▶ “Open” POD
 - ▶ Logan Hocking Middle School
- ▶ “Closed” POD
 - ▶ Hospital

“OPEN” PODS

- ▶ Open to the general public; usually offered in large facilities.
- ▶ May be restricted to target groups identified by the CDC.
- ▶ Require large numbers of staff, volunteers, and support from community partners in order to operate 24/7; 12-hour shifts.



“CLOSED” PODS



- ▶ Not available to the general public.
- ▶ Usually offered at work sites; businesses; health facilities; and/or faith-based organizations.
- ▶ May require only moderate numbers of staff, volunteers, and support from community partners; smaller facilities (such as nursing homes) may only need small amounts of outside assistance.
- ▶ Staffing 24/7 may not be needed for many sites.

- ▶ Closed PODS are typically composed of organizations with discrete populations – colleges and universities, for example, plus businesses, private sector groups, and government agencies. Each member of the network agrees to accept and distribute the medications likely to be required and distribute them to their own populations.

CLOSED POD



SIMILARITIES: OPEN AND CLOSED PODS

- ▶ Medications come from the local health department.
- ▶ Medications at no cost.
- ▶ Function to:
 - ▶ Screen
 - ▶ Educate
 - ▶ Dispense



To the Community

- ▶ More closed PODs means fewer people waiting for medications at open PODs in the same community.
- ▶ Enhance local response capability.

To Closed POD Personnel and Employees

- ▶ Protect employees and their families
- ▶ Ensure business continuity of operations

BENEFITS OF CLOSED PODS



- ▶ Employers of many corporations and other high-population institutions have various reasons to establish closed PODs:
- ▶ a) It costs them little or nothing to establish a closed POD since there are no fees involved in participation
- ▶ (b) The medications provided to the host organization also are free since they have already been purchased and maintained by the federal government
- ▶ (c) The lifesaving medications are delivered to the organization's employees quickly and economically

BENEFITS CONT.



- ▶ The advantage of such arrangements for the health departments at all levels of government is obvious: They essentially can outsource the distribution of hundreds of thousands of doses of various medications to the closed PODs, in order to focus their efforts on serving other citizens lacking access to the closed PODs.

BENEFITS CONT.



- ▶ The requirements for establishing a closed POD vary from one community to another, but the first step required usually is to contact the local public health department to speak with the public health emergency planner.

HOW DO WE BECOME A CLOSED POD



- ▶ Other possible workplace requirements might include agreements that:
- ▶ (a) the closed POD must be able to serve a certain minimum number of people
- ▶ (b) that the host organizations must demonstrate their ability to establish and occasionally exercise their distribution plans



CLOSED POD REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ Create a closed-POD team.
- ▶ The team members must obtain executive approval for their efforts, and usually will be responsible for designing the organization's plan, including the site layout and periodic exercises required.

REQUIREMENTS CONT.



- ▶ Obtain a copy of the MOU with the health department and forward it to the appropriate legal counsel in the requesting company or organization. After the organization has approved the MOU, the leaders of the organization must sign it and provide a copy to the local health department.

REQUIREMENTS CONT.



- ▶ Provide the health department with all of the information needed to reserve the appropriate number of lifesaving medications, which would either be delivered to the POD site or made available for pickup.



MORE REQUIREMENTS??

- ▶ Be ready at all times, even on very short notice, to activate the closed POD when a local incident occurs.

CLOSED POD



- ▶ The creation and staffing of a closed POD will enable both medium-sized and larger organizations to effectively help prepare their communities for a bioterrorism attack, while at the same time protecting their most valuable assets: their employees.
- ▶ With a relatively modest and low-cost effort on the part of these organizations, closed PODs offer many benefits to the employees, the local health systems, and the surrounding communities.

CONCLUSION



▶ www.closedpodpartners.org

RESOURCES





QUESTIONS??

