

Fact Sheet for Health Care Leadership: Becoming a Closed Point of Dispensing Partner

Purpose: To provide the leaders of health care organizations information that may assist them in making the decision to support becoming a closed point of dispensing (POD) for medical countermeasures (MCM).

Background:

In a large public health emergency, public health departments will lead a coordinated effort to distribute MCMs to the members of their communities by sending them to a point of dispensing (POD).

- Public health plans include using two types of PODs, open and closed, to help in distributing MCMs to the local population. Open POD sites are often located in schools, arenas, or other public locations, and are where the general public receives their medication. Closed PODs are MCM dispensing sites where medication is made available to an individual organization's employees and potentially their families.
- At a POD, dispensing or administration staff will determine who can safely take the medication and inform them regarding the protections afforded by the medication and potential adverse events.
- Public health departments use arrangements for closed PODs to help reduce the demand on open PODs and to lessen the time needed to distribute the medications across the community.

Why should your health care organization be a closed POD?

Making your hospital or health care organization a closed POD partner with your local public health department may directly benefit your organization and employees. Your organization can continue operations by dispensing medication quickly to your employees and their families, rather than having them take the time to visit open PODs. Community planners may see your organization as a supportive and active response partner; one that takes care of the workforce that is charged with the health care of the community.

What's in it for your health care facility?

- **Expanded benefits.** Closed PODs provide medications necessary for protection both for your employees and their families during a public health emergency.
- **A more resilient workforce.** The rapid delivery MCMs to employees is a key step in improving their protection from contracting a disease allowing them to continue working or return to work more quickly.
- **Staff retention and loyalty.** Operating a closed POD provides an opportunity to demonstrate an extra level of commitment to your staff that supports increased employee retention and loyalty.

What's in it for your staff?

- **Reduced anxiety or fear of family safety during a public health emergency.** Operating as a closed POD allows your staff to feel secure, knowing that they and their families will receive MCMs during an emergency.
- **Convenience of onsite pickup.** Staff members will be able to pick up medication for themselves and their families without having to go to another location.
- **Reduced absenteeism due to illness.** Staff members have the medication needed onsite to maintain their health and can continue working during emergencies.

