



Points of Dispensing (PODs) Fact Sheet



A POD is a mass dispensing site that provides medications (prophylaxis) or vaccinations to protect the general population from biological threats or epidemics.

- PODs may also be activated in some natural disaster.

What does a POD involve?

A POD involves the following activities:

- Setup and execution of a dispensing operation to serve populations before they become symptomatic.
- Coordinate personnel to staff the dispensing operations.
- Train and organize staff to perform dispensing site functions.
- Provide public information about the community efforts to protect themselves from the threat.

POD Goals

- Decrease the number of individuals who may get ill.
- Provide information to the public about the threat and the treatment (*antibiotic or vaccine*) being dispensed.
- Provide medication to exposed populations within a given time period. (The population and time frame are often event specific)

How do you get medications?

- Registration: you will be asked to complete a form with information about you and/or family members. The POD will have staff available to assist individuals completing forms.
- Forms Review: After completing the form, you will stop at the Registration Station where staff will review forms and answer any questions.
- Dispensing: Finally, you will stop at a Dispensing Station where you will receive the medication or vaccination and appropriate administration of the medication.

ALL MEDICATIONS OR VACCINES ARE FREE!

Where will PODs be set up?

Local Public Health Officials have identified one or more locations throughout your county that may serve as a POD site.

For more information, please contact your local Public Health Official

Who will Staff the POD?

The POD will be staffed by personnel from your community supported by the Department of Health.

Additional medical and non-medical volunteers may be needed to provide staffing support. If needed, a call for volunteers will be made through the local media. Information will be given for volunteers to report to a central location to receive their POD assignment. Once arriving to the assigned POD, volunteers will be provided *Just In Time* training.

Volunteer information can be found @ volunteers.sd.gov/

When is a POD Activated?

Several questions must be answered before deciding to provide mass dispensing. Including:

- What is the possible cause of the illness? (*bacterial, virus, fungi or toxin*)
- What evidence is the suspected cause of illness based upon? Mass treatment is not considered until laboratory testing has confirmed the agent. (*State and Federal lab testing may be needed*).
- What are the possible treatment options?
- Is mass dispensing appropriate for the event?

A POD IS NOT

- A trauma center, emergency room or urgent care center. It will not have the capability to provide medical treatment to patients.
- A shelter. It will not have the capacity to house or feed patients.
- Joint Information Center (JIC)

For more information visit DOH.SD.gov and search for PODs