OVERVIEW

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Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Point of Dispensing (POD) Overview

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Upon completion of this training module, you will be able to

- Define SNS, RSS, and POD
- Identify why, when, where, and how a POD is activated.
A Public Health Threat is Identified

In order to respond effectively to a disease outbreak, a specific disease needs to be identified.
Local Government Responds

A local jurisdiction will attempt to manage a public health emergency by first utilizing local resources.

If local resources are or are believed to become insufficient to manage the public health emergency, then a request is made for the deployment of state assets.
State Government Responds

State government will respond by providing additional resources to assist in the management of the public health emergency. These may include antibiotics, equipment, medical supplies, and other resources as requested.

If state assets are or are believed to become insufficient to manage the public health emergency, then a request is made for the deployment of federal assets.
Federal assets to manage a public health emergency are coordinated through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) program is managed by the CDC and is the primary federal asset to address a public health emergency.
Strategic National Stockpile

There are pre-positioned pharmaceutical located throughout the United States.
These pharmaceutical stockpiles can reach any location in the United States or its territories within 12 hours of the order to deploy.
The Strategic National Stockpile is shipped to a Receiving, Staging, and Storage (RSS) facility for distribution.
The pharmaceutical stockpile is broken down at the RSS for distribution to the individual PODs.
A POD is a community based dispensing point for vaccinations or medications.

A POD is also referred to as a dispensing site, dispensing clinic, medication clinic, or Community Emergency Medication Clinic.
When does a POD open?

The County Commissioner or Mayor in coordination with local Emergency Management is notified by Public Health Officials that a public health threat exists and requests that a POD be activated.
There are three (3) types of events that could require the activation of a POD:
Natural disasters can provide the conditions for the development and spread of disease among the affected population.
Disease Outbreak

Naturally occurring disease outbreaks may require activation of a POD.

Examples: Pandemic Flu, SARS, Hepatitis A, etc.

Disease outbreaks may require response in a timeframe as limited as 48 hours.
Biological agents have been intentionally released in the past to cause harm as well as spread fear and panic.
Where do you open a POD?

Your POD location should be opened at a pre-identified location readily accessible to your community.
Primary Goal of a POD

Decrease the number of individuals within your community who may become ill.
You Receive "The Call"

The local or state public health authority has just notified your county or community officials to open your POD.

What needs to be done now?
The first step is to activate your call down list. This list should be prepared in advance listing all essential POD personnel with alternates.
Treat first responders

All POD staff, volunteers, and other first responders should be notified of where to report in order for them to receive their vaccination and/or medication.

Vaccinate and/or medicate all members of the first responder community.
Set up the POD

Set up the Point of Dispensing and prepare to receive clients.
Community officials will use available media outlets to inform the public of all of the relevant information pertaining to the public health emergency.
Open the POD

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Sample POD Layout

Education Station
Form Collection
Exit Education
Vaccinating/Dispensing
COMMAND
Screening
Greeter and Form Distribution
Special Needs and Counseling

EXIT
There are three (3) types of clients that could present at a POD:
3 Types of Clients

Healthy

Quickly get them the needed vaccine or medications.
3 Types of Clients

Pre-existing Conditions or Complications

- Assess medical condition
- Determine contraindications and/or dosage adjustments
- Quickly get them the needed vaccine or medication
3 Types of Clients

Sick

- Identify prior to entering the POD.
- Direct to a treatment center.
A Greeter is found at the front entrance to a POD.
The primary responsibility of the Greeter is to greet and provide direction to incoming clients.
The triage staff will ask questions and gather information from incoming clients.
Clients who are experiencing acute illness or symptoms need to be referred away from the POD and to a treatment center where they can receive medical attention.
Every effort should be made to keep families together throughout the POD process.
Client Flow: Education

Clients should be provided with any forms they need to complete in order to receive vaccination or medication.

Clients should also receive education upon entering the POD. The education may include videos or handouts designed to educate the client about the POD process.

The client should also be educated in regard to the public health threat that created the need for the POD to be activated.
Client Flow: Screening

Clients need to be screened and assessed for any special needs that they may have.
Client Flow: Forms Review

The intake paperwork distributed to clients upon arriving at a POD needs to be reviewed upon completion.

Any potential contraindications should be double checked and consent forms should be checked to see if they have been signed.

Forms review can take place at Screening, Dispensing, or a separate forms review station depending upon the nature of the event and staff availability.
Dispensing is where the client receives their vaccination and/or medication. Clients should also receive a patient information sheet which will provide information about the vaccine or medication they just received.
Exit Education is where the client receives instruction about the medication or vaccination that they have just received including directions on taking any medication, potential side effects, and other relevant information.

Exit Education may also include form collection.
The Role of Public Health

Public Health supports POD preparation, and implementation.

This includes assisting in the development of your POD plan and providing training.
The Role of Public Health

Public Health will provide the vaccine and/or medication resources.
Public health, however, is not staffed to handle large-scale events.
We Need You

Sign up as a Volunteer today.

The lives of your family and friends could depend upon it.