Working in a POD:

Self Study

**An Introduction to Public Health
Emergency Response**

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Training Objectives

<u>**Upon completing this training module you will be able to:**</u>

- **Define Medical Countermeasure (MCM); Receiving, Staging, Storage (RSS); and Point of Dispensing (POD)**

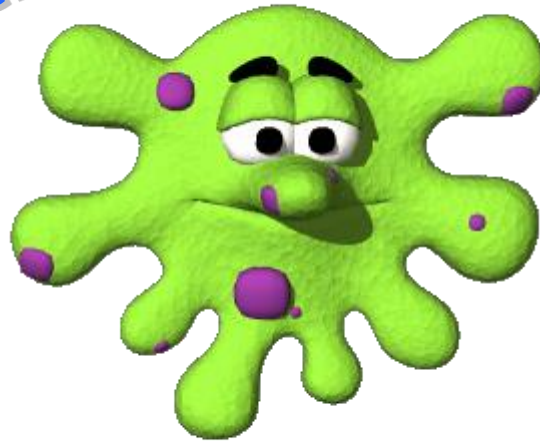- **Identify why, when, where and how a POD is activated.**

GOAL

EXIT ▶

A Public Health Threat is Identified

Anthrax

Ebola

Botulism

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

EXIT

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.

EXIT

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 become insufficient to manage the public health emergency, then a request is made for the deployment of federal assets.

Medical Countermeasure

Federal assets to manage a public health emergency are coordinated through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Medical Countermeasure

There are pre-positioned pharmaceuticals located throughout the United States.

EXIT

Medical Countermeasure

These pharmaceutical stockpiles can reach any location in the United States or its territories within **12 hours** of the order to deploy.

Medical Countermeasure

RSS

The Medical Countermeasures are shipped to receiving, staging and storage (RSS) facility for distribution.

Medical Countermeasure

The Medical Countermeasures are broken down at the RSS for distribution to individual PODs.
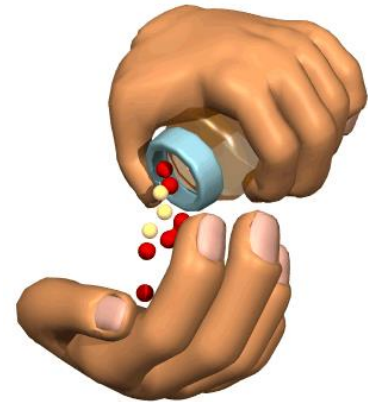
EXIT

What is an Open POD?

An open POD is a community based dispensing point for vaccinations or medications.

Vaccinations   **Medications**

OR

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

EXIT

What is a Closed POD?

- A Closed POD is not open to the community

- Usually private business, schools, prison, government employees, hospital staff

- Benefit is less downtime, gets your business serviced sooner than the general public.

- To be listed as a Closed POD your business needs a licensed RN or physician to oversee the dispensing of medications.

When does a POD open?

The Ashtabula County Commissioners in coordination with the Ashtabula County Emergency Management Agency, is notified by the Ashtabula County Health Department that a public health threat exists and request that Point of Dispensing Site(s) (POD) be activated.

EXIT

3 Types of Events

There are three (3) types of events that could require the activation of a POD:

Natural Disaster

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.

Terrorism

Biological agents have been intentionally released in the past to cause harm as well as spread fear and panic.

EXIT

Where do you open a POD?

Your POD location should be opened at a pre-identified location readily accessible to your community or employment.

Primary Goal of a POD

Decrease the number of individuals within your community who may become ill.

EXIT

You Receive "The Call"

The local or state public health authority has just notified your county or community officials to open your POD.
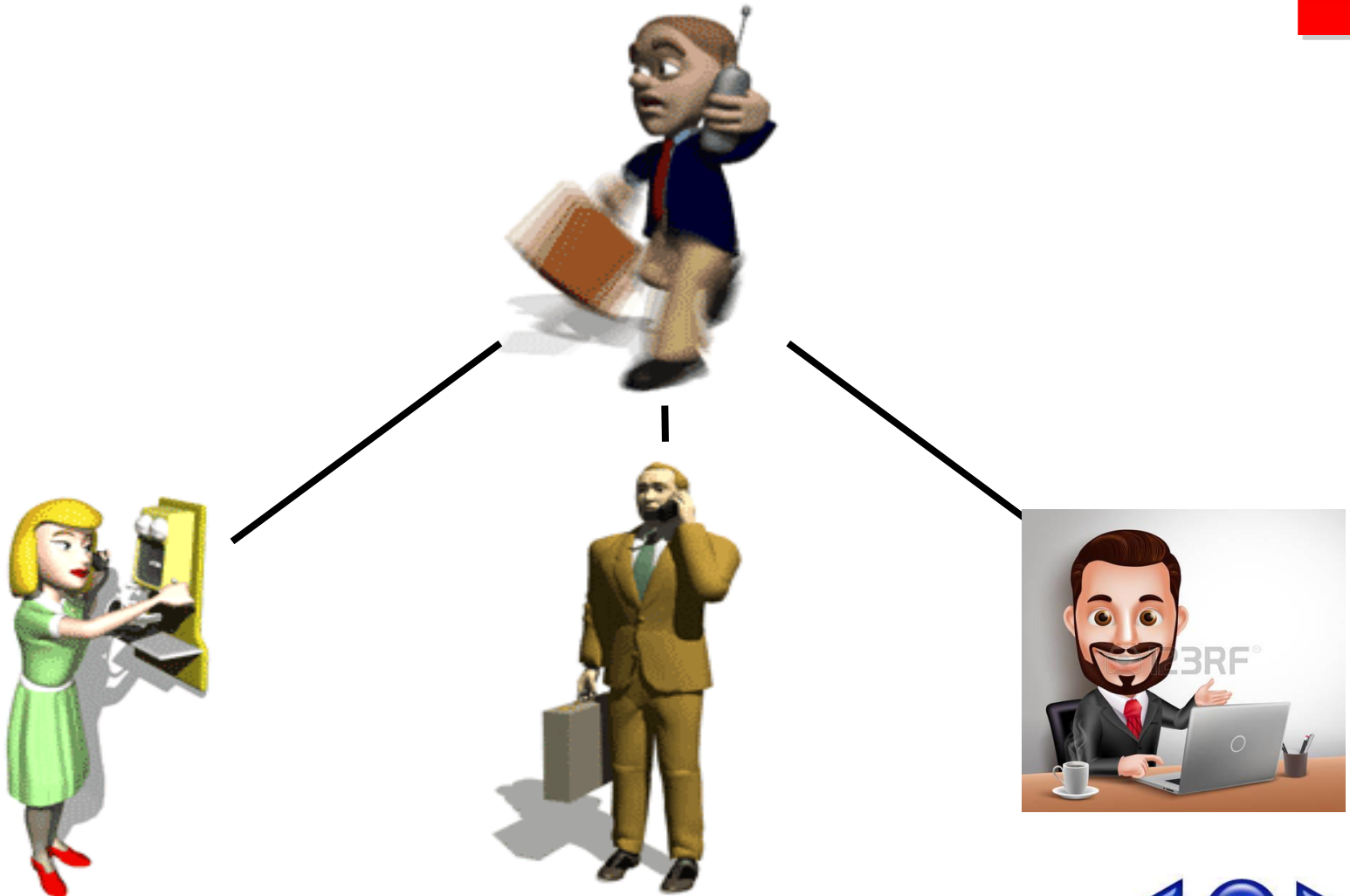
What needs to be done now?

Activate the POD Call Down List(s)

Treat first responders

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

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

Set up the POD

3

Set up the Point of Dispensing and prepare to receive clients.

Notification of the Public

Community officials will use available media outlets to inform the public of all of the relevant information pertaining to the public health emergency.

EXIT

Open the POD

5

Sample POD Layout

EXIT

Form Collection
Exit Education

Vaccinating/Dispensing

COMMAND

Disease Outbreak

medical reserve corps

Education Station

Screening

Functional Needs
and Counseling

Greeter and Form Distribution

EXIT

3 Types of Clients

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.

EXIT

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

EXIT

3 Types of Clients

3

Sick

- Identify prior to entering the POD.

- Direct to a treatment center.

EXIT

Client Flow: The Front Door

POD Entrance

A Greeter is found at the front entrance to a POD.

Client Flow: The Front Door

POD Entrance

The primary responsibility of the Greeter is to greet and provide direction to incoming clients.
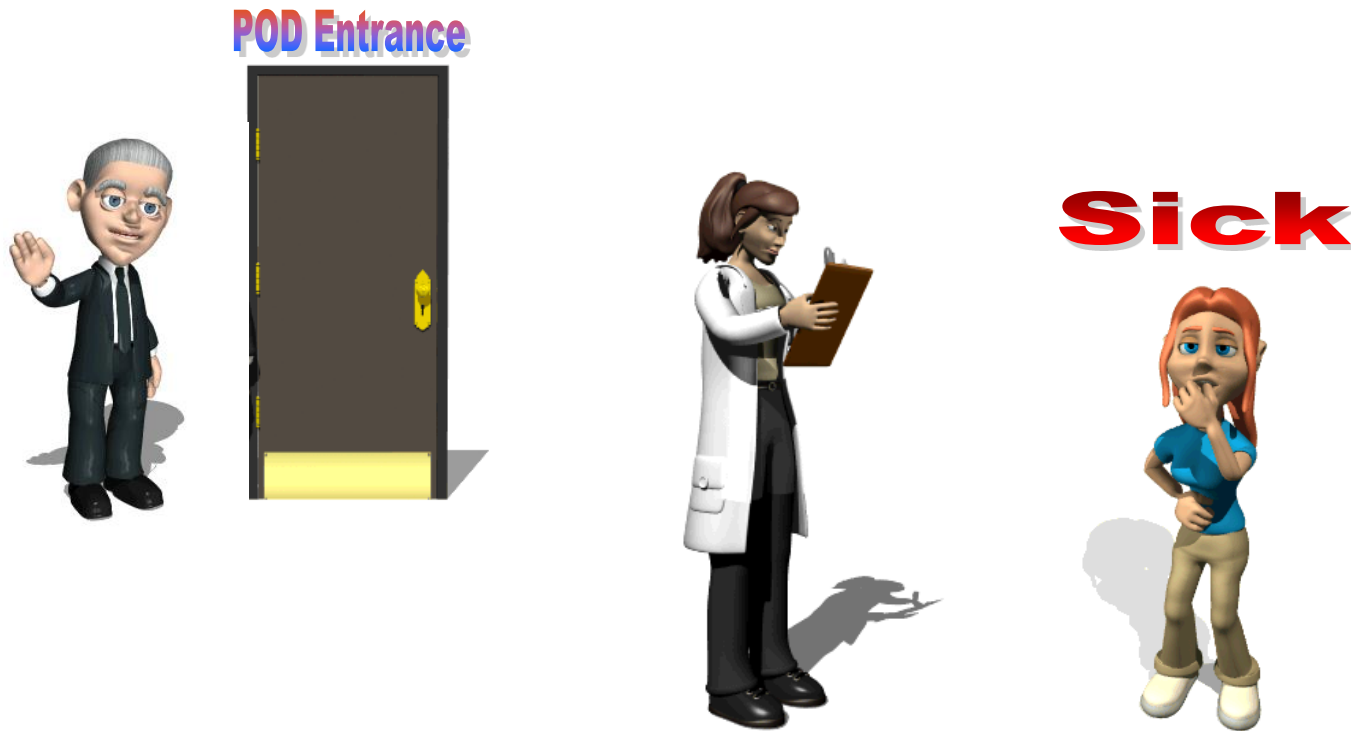
EXIT

Client Flow: Triage

POD Entrance

The triage staff will ask questions and gather information from incoming clients.

EXIT

Client Flow: Triage

POD Entrance

Sick

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.

EXIT

Client Flow: The Front Door

POD Entrance

Every effort should be made to keep families together throughout the POD process.

EXIT

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

Counseling

Special Needs

Clients need to be screened and assessed for any special needs that they may have.

EXIT

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.

Client Flow: Dispensing

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.

Client Flow: Exit Education

EXIT

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.

EXIT

The Role of Public Health

Public Health supports POD preparation, and implementation.

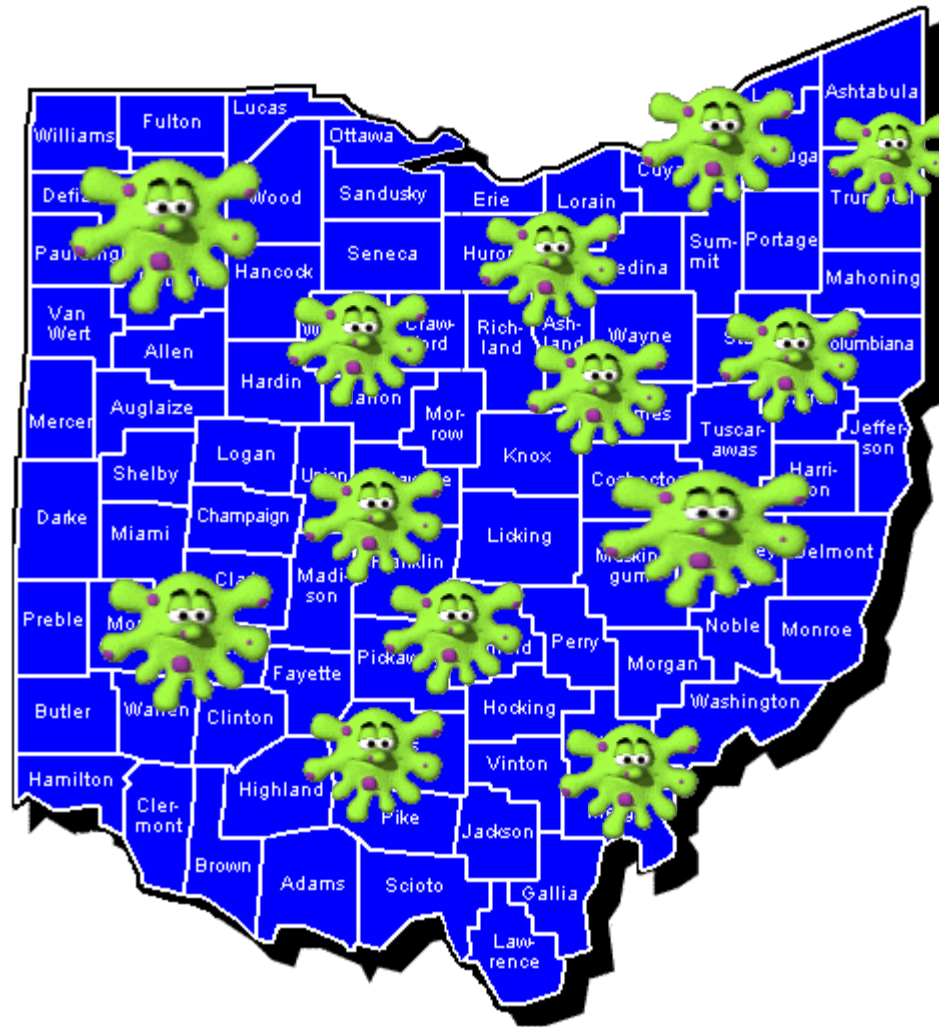This includes assisting in the development of your POD plan and providing training.

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.

EXIT

Total PODS in Ashtabula County

- Ashtabula County Health Department has agreements for 5 Open PODS which includes 1 Open POD dedicated for Access and Special Needs Populations.

- Ashtabula County Health Department has agreements for 8 Closed PODS within Ashtabula County. These Closed PODS consist of government offices, first responders, health departments, schools

- Ashtabula City Health Department has agreements for 3 Open PODS and 3 Closed PODS within Ashtabula City

- Conneaut City Health Department has agreements for 2 Open PODS and 2 Closed PODS within Conneaut City

- The above PODS listed above are listed in local plans and have been exercised within the past 2 years

For More Info...

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Acknowledgements

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- *Adapted by: Ashtabula County Health Department Emergency Preparedness*

EXIT