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Director

## POINT OF DISPENSING (POD) SITES

A point of dispensing (POD) site provides medications (prophylaxis) or vaccinations to protect the general population from biological threats or epidemics. **Routine medical care is not provided in a POD.** The sole purpose of a POD is to quickly distribute preventive medication to large numbers of people during a public health emergency to prevent illness. In the event of a community disease outbreak or emergency, a point of dispensing (POD) site might be one tool used to fight the spread of disease.

The County of Riverside Emergency Management Department (EMD) will operate PODs strategically located in areas accessible by public transportation throughout Riverside County. POD locations will include facilities such as convention centers, baseball stadiums, schools, community centers, senior centers and churches with ample parking. Each POD will operate 24 hours a day for approximately 48 hours, delivering medication to thousands of people.

### **Who might have to go to a POD during a public health emergency to receive medication?**

Only individuals who have potentially been exposed to the disease causing the public health emergency will receive antibiotics or vaccine at a POD. PODs are designed to provide medication that will **prevent** someone from becoming sick with a disease. Persons who are already sick with the disease will not be able to seek treatment at a POD. Those persons who are ill and require treatment will need to be seen at their physician's office or at the hospital.

If a POD is activated during an emergency, EMD will provide information on [www.RivCoReady.org](http://www.RivCoReady.org), as well as EMD social media accounts. In addition, EMD will inform community partners and the local media.

### **How will I know where my POD is located?**

Riverside County Emergency Management Department will not post POD locations until an event occurs requiring their use.

A POD location is usually:

- In a large public building like a community center or senior center
- Chosen by EMD before an emergency, but the locations will not be announced until an emergency actually happens

To find out more about the locations and hours of the POD closest to you **during an emergency**, check:

- Local radio and television
- Newspapers
- City and County websites
- County of Riverside Department of Public Health website: [www.rivcoph.org](http://www.rivcoph.org)
- County of Riverside Emergency Management Department website: [www.RivCoReady.org](http://www.RivCoReady.org)

### **What do I need to know about getting medicine or a vaccine at a POD?**

During a public health emergency:

- A specific medicine or vaccine will be free to everyone (if available)
- You will not be asked for ID
- You will not be asked about your immigration status
- If bottles of pills are needed, one person needs to go to the POD to pick up the medicine for the entire household
- If vaccines are needed, everyone will need to go to the POD to get their vaccine
- Medical forms may be available to fill out before arriving at the POD

### **What do I need to bring to the POD?**

Bring the following for you and anyone else you're picking up medicine for:

- List of medicines being taken
- List of allergies to medicines
- List of health conditions
- List of the ages and approximate weights of any children
- Completed medical form available online

### **Will I have to wait in line to get my medicine?**

Lines may be long so you should:

- Bring water and snacks for waiting in line
- Be sure to wear comfortable, weather-appropriate clothing
- Stay calm
- Complete medical form for you and all members of your family
- Check with your employer to see if they are a Closed POD. If so, you may be able to receive medicine at work and not have to wait in line

### **Who will work in a POD?**

County of Riverside employees will serve as lead staff for the PODs. However, medical, non-medical personnel and community residents are equally essential. If you are interested in volunteering to work at a POD, please visit our Medical Volunteer Program site.

### **Tips for your visit to a POD site**

- Each individual coming to a POD site can accept medications for multiple people; we encourage citizens to take care of friends of neighbors who are unable to travel to the POD site.
- Medications will be provided to everyone in the affected area for free and personal identification will not be required.
- Since long lines are expected, children, persons who are ill, or persons who are unable to stand in line for an extended period of time should not attend.
- Complete medical forms prior to arriving at the POD.
- Know how much your children weigh and any allergies to medications for the people you are getting the medication for.
- **Do not** come to the POD if you are sick!