

NOTES:

For More Information

Call the Bureau of Health Emergency  
Management

505-476-8258 or 505-476-8248



PROTECTING YOUR  
ORGANIZATION DURING  
PUBLIC HEALTH  
EMERGENCIES



Are you ready to become a  
closed POD partner?

## PREPARING FOR THE NEXT PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

No one can predict the next public health emergency. Unfortunately, a



natural disaster or act of terrorism could happen at any time. There-

fore, we have to be prepared to respond to our community at a moment's notice. During a public health emergency, the general public is typically encouraged to come to common areas within the community to receive medications like churches, schools and gymnasiums. These locations will be highly stressed in a situation where the entire population needs to be given medications within a short time frame. Providing medicines through closed points of dispensing (PODs) is one method planners are utilizing to reach populations faster and relieve some of the burden placed on common dispensing sites.

**GOAL: Provide medicines to people within 48 hours**

A Closed POD is a private location where medications are dispensed to a specific group of people. With the help of businesses, universities, community organizations, and military installations, we can decrease the number of people going to the same places for medicine during a public health emergency. Closed PODs help to reach specific portions of the community more quickly. As a result, long lines and public anxiety can be reduced and resources can be used more efficiently.

### Benefits our community

- ✓ Helps achieve the community dispensing goal more rapidly
- ✓ Decreases the number of people at Open/Public dispensing sites

### Benefits your organization

- ✓ Protects your organization and your families
- ✓ Helps to ensure your organization's continuity of operations

The New Mexico Department of Health's Bureau of Health Emergency Management will work closely with your organization to ensure that you have the needed information and resources to establish a closed POD. As with all preparedness activities, the more we communicate and exercise our response plans now, the better we will respond if an emergency occurs.

## OUR ROLE

- ✓ Pre-event planning and technical assistance
- ✓ Training and education
- ✓ Providing medications during an emergency
- ✓ Assisting with closed POD activation, operation and recovery activities

## YOUR ROLE

- ✓ Developing a closed POD plan
- ✓ Participating in trainings and exercises
- ✓ Maintaining the necessary supplies and equipment needed to operate a closed POD
- ✓ Dispensing medications following guidance provided by the New Mexico Department of Health

## PROTECT WHAT MEANS MOST TO YOU

We can provide medicines to people within 48 hours. Our goal can be reached with your help. Becoming a closed POD partner with the New Mexico Department of Health is a significant step in helping protect the health and safety of your organization, your family, and our community.