



COUNTY OF ORANGE – HEALTH CARE AGENCY

PRESS RELEASE

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HEALTH CARE AGENCY TO EXERCISE EMERGENCY RESPONSE AT IRVINE GREAT PARK

(Santa Ana, CA) - The Orange County Health Care Agency (HCA), City of Irvine and seven South County cities will be exercising a Point of Dispensing (POD) emergency preparedness event at the Great Park, Irvine on October 18 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. to practice rapid distribution of medicine in the event of a public health outbreak.

If a widespread disease or other emergency were to occur, it may be necessary for local health departments to activate PODs to distribute large amounts of vaccinations, antibiotics, and other medicines to a large number of people. “This multi-city POD exercise is a great opportunity for Orange County residents to help the Health Care Agency exercise our capabilities to distribute medications in an emergency scenario,” said County Health Officer Dr. Eric Handler.

The Great Park POD exercise will offer both a walk-up option and a drive-thru option. During the event, participants will be directed through the exercise by local police and fire authorities and will be asked to complete a brief intake form, proceed to a nurse or nursing student who will distribute exercise materials, then be directed through the exit station. Participants will receive a commemorative tote bag, local emergency planning materials, information about the AlertOC emergency notification system, and a holiday pumpkin while supplies last.

The exercise will help your community prepare for general health emergencies, and is a partnership of several local entities, including the Orange County Health Care Agency, Medical Reserve Corps and the cities of Aliso Viejo, Irvine, Laguna Beach, Laguna Niguel, Lake Forest, Mission Viejo and San Clemente.

For more information about this one-day event, please visit www.ochealthinfo.com/PODEvent

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