



## **MEDIA TALKING POINTS**

### **Point of Dispensing (POD) – Irvine Great Park**

#### **What is a POD?**

A POD or point of dispensing is simply a place where a large number of people can safely yet quickly receive medications, vaccinations, or supplies during and after an emergency. Park community centers, school gymnasiums, churches, businesses and large parking lots all can be used as POD sites.

#### **What a POD is not...**

A POD is not a treatment center - sick people should not go to PODs for treatment.  
A POD is not a place where people can get their regular medications (for example, medicine for diabetes or high blood pressure) during an emergency.

#### **When might a POD be activated?**

PODs may open anytime there is a need for the Health Care Agency (HCA) and local municipalities to provide medications, vaccinations, or supplies to a large number of the population. For example, in 2009, the PODs were used to provide vaccinations to thousands of people to protect against H1N1.

#### **How will I know where PODs are located?**

When an emergency calls for the opening of PODs, the Health Care Agency and partners will get information out about PODs in many ways, including:

- Information on City Websites
- Television and radio announcements
- HCA Twitter and Facebook pages
- Newspaper announcements
- In coordination with local community agencies and local schools
- AlertOC.org

#### **What can I expect at a POD?**

1. *Registration:* When you arrive, you may be asked to complete a form with information about you and/or your family members. Staff and volunteers will assist people with completing forms. There may be long lines at POD sites since many people will be there to receive services.



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2. *Forms Review:* After you complete your form, you will stop at the Registration Station where a staff or volunteer will review your form(s) and answer any questions you may have.
3. *Dispensing:* Stop at a Dispensing Station where you will receive the medication or vaccination being passed out.
4. *Checkout/Exit:* You will be directed to the exit.

### Key POD Exercise Objectives

Throughout the exercise operational period, specific functions and capabilities are practiced and measured to ensure preparedness for real-life health emergencies.

- Emergency Operations Coordination - Demonstrate the ability to establish and maintain multi-agency and multijurisdictional emergency operations management.
- Information Sharing – Demonstrate the ability to establish and maintain multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional communications.
- Medical Countermeasure Dispensing – demonstrate the ability to efficiently manage and dispense medication to the public at the measurable throughput.
- Medical Material Management and Distribution – demonstrate the ability to coordinate and integrate internal and external logistical response resources.
- Responder Safety and Health – Demonstrate the ability to maintain security.
- Volunteer Management – Demonstrate the ability to coordinate and organize multiple volunteer organizations.

### QUESTIONS?

- To schedule an interview with an Emergency Operations Coordinator, call the OC Health Care Agency's Communications Line at (714) 834-2178.
- View POD overview <https://www.youtube.com/embed/SQXsim2RE-Y?rel=0>