Franklin County Public Health

Private Point of Dispensing (POD) Facility

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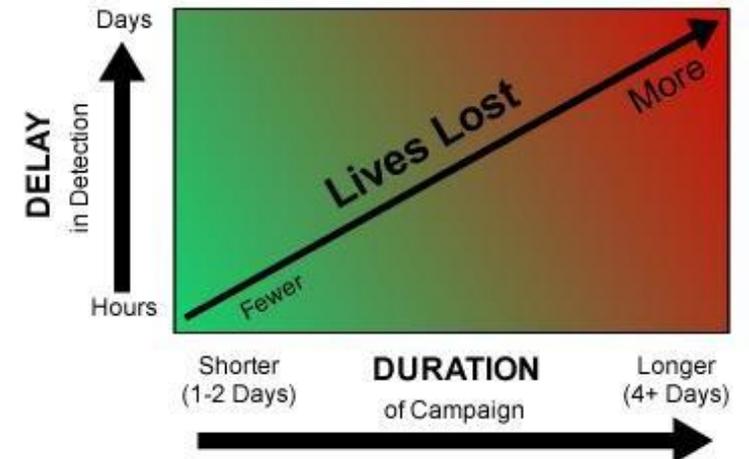Franklin County
Public Health

Contents

Cities Readiness Initiative

The Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) is a federal effort designed to increase bioterrorism preparedness in the nation's larger cities. The goal is to save lives in these selected cities by rapidly dispensing medication to their entire population within 48 hours of the decision to do so.

Since 2004, CDC has provided special funding for CRI through the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement. The funding is provided to enhance the mass dispensing capabilities of the CRI metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) and their MSAs. 72 MSAs will use this special funding to develop plans that support mass dispensing of drugs to 100% of the identified population within 48 hours of a decision to do so. A total of 72 cities are included in this initiative.

Time is Critical

Q & A

What is the Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI)?
The Cities Readiness Initiative is a federally funded effort to prepare major U.S. cities and metropolitan areas to effectively respond to a large scale bioterrorist event by dispensing antibiotics to their entire identified population within 48 hours of the decision to do so.

Why is CRI necessary?
CRI is needed to enhance preparedness at all levels of government and to provide a consistent nationwide approach to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a large-scale public health emergency.

What are the specific risks for the citizens in my city?
Past events have taught us that the risk of terrorism—including bioterrorism— being perpetrated against Americans, is real. The ability to quickly deliver countermeasures to a large population is a central component of public health preparedness.

How is CRI funded?
Since 2004, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has provided funding for CRI through the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement to enhance the mass dispensing capabilities of the CRI cities. Funds are provided to the states for further distribution to the local level, except for Washington DC, Chicago, New York City, and Los Angeles, which are directly funded cities.

What are Public Points of Dispensing (PODs)?
Public Points of Dispensing are designated dispensing locations for persons who are currently healthy but may have been "exposed" and need prophylactic medication. PODs are the traditional method of providing prophylaxis in CRI.

What assistance does CDC provide in CRI?
CDC's Coordination Office for Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response (COTPER), Division of Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), provides technical assistance on the planning process by helping to identify resources and training opportunities for participating cities. The SNS utilizes a number of venues including educational web casts, guidebooks, and training classes to share information and lessons learned from federal, state and local perspectives. In addition, CRI cities are evaluated regularly by SNS program consultants during a CRI assessment process.
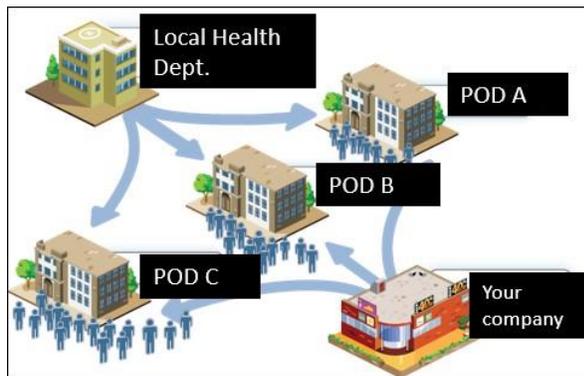
What is a Private POD?
A Private POD is located at an agency that is closed to the general public, and is used to dispense medical countermeasures (MCMs) to the agency's employees and their families.
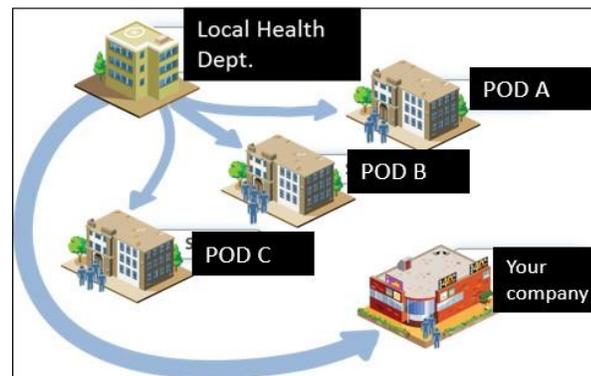
POD Information

Public POD

- Open to the general public
- Operated by Franklin County Public Health (FCPH) and Columbus Public Health (CPH)

Private POD

- Located at the agency
- Closed to the general public
- Dispenses MCMs to a specific population
- Collaborative effort between the public and private sectors

Overall Impact of Private PODs

- Decreases the number of people coming to general population PODs
- Decrease the potential morbidity and mortality associated with the incident
- Helps us direct (limited) resources to other channels

Benefits & Requirements

What is the benefit to your organization?

- Receive medication quickly

- Ensures employees & family members are protected

- Ensures continuity of operations for your organization

- Demonstrates investment in employee health and wellness

- Requires limited resource investment

What is expected of your agency?

- Providing staff to coordinate dispensing on-site

- Provide a physical location

- Provide non-medical supplies (such as tables, chairs, printers, laptops, etc.)

- Designate 24-hour points of contact

- Identify plans to direct medical countermeasure dispensing at your agency

- Work with local and regional public health officials to determine request and delivery processes, and participate in regular reviews of plans (including exercises)

Next Steps

FCPH agrees to:

- Provide education, training, & exercise opportunities
- Provide pre-incident planning (supply lists, fact sheets, dispensing algorithms, etc.)
- Coordinate a point of distribution
- Provide appropriate MCMs

Agency agrees to:

- Request MCMs according to the number of employees, family, associated personnel
- Assume responsibility of picking up and dispensing the MCMs
- Provide training and education to staff that will be involved in dispensing
- Update yearly number of population being served

What are the next steps?

- Sign Memorandum of Understanding between two agencies
- Identify the number of employees, family members and total people served
- Identify persons authorized to pick up medications
- Develop preparedness plan
- Attend educational opportunities offered by FCPH

Contact Information

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Acronym List

CDC – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CPH – Columbus Public Health

CRI – Cities Readiness Initiative

FCPH – Franklin County Public Health

MCM – Medical Countermeasures

MSA – Metropolitan Statistical Area

PDS – Private Distribution Site

POD – Point of Dispensing

SNS – Strategic National Stockpile