

## Closed Point of Dispensing (POD): Partnering with Public Health

### Frequently Asked Questions

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<b>What is the purpose of a Closed POD?</b>	To provide lifesaving medications to a designated population of people and their family members during a public health emergency.
<b>What are the requirements for becoming a Closed POD?</b>	Any business or organization is encouraged to participate.
<b>How much is it going to cost?</b>	Medications and training are <b>free</b> of charge.
<b>Will there be training provided?</b>	Yes, the health department will provide necessary trainings.
<b>When would we be asked to dispense medications at their own facility?</b>	The only time DCHD would ask organizations to dispense medications to employees and their families would be if there is a great risk to the entire population and preventive medications need to be taken immediately.
<b>Who operates the Closed POD?</b>	Employees within your organization will operate the Closed POD with oversight from the health department.
<b>Will people be allowed to pick up medications for their families?</b>	Yes, employees will be allowed to pick up medications for their families.
<b>How will medication be packaged?</b>	The medication will be packaged for individual use and will be taken orally. Appropriate dosage instructions will accompany each bottle of medication.
<b>Who needs to take the medication?</b>	Under this type of emergency, the entire population within a community will need to take the medication. This includes adults and children. Appropriate dosage instructions will accompany each bottle of medication that is dispensed at the Closed POD.
<b>What about pets?</b>	The medications provided at the Closed POD are for humans only. Employees with pets should contact their



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veterinarians for more information about the risk to their pet and any preventive measures they can take to help protect the health of their pet.

**What about employees who telework or commute long distances to and from work?**

As a Closed POD, expect to provide medications to all employees and their families, realizing that long distance commuters may choose to go to an open POD closer to their home.

**Is it possible that our organization will need to operate a Closed POD after-hours, during the weekend, or on a holiday?**

Public health emergencies can occur at any time. It is essential that your organization be prepared to operate a Closed POD during non-working hours since your employees health will be at risk if medications are delayed.

**Is this legal? What if someone gets hurt or has a reaction to the medicine?**

Yes it is legal. Public health officials depend on volunteers to assist during public health emergencies. Participating as a Closed POD is a voluntary program and there are various laws and statutes applicable to liability protection. We will be happy to review the liability protections afforded to your organization under federal law as well as Nebraska statutes.

