

**Protect Your Employees & Families
During Public Health Emergencies**

Become a Closed Dispensing Site

“Medical Countermeasure dispensing is the ability to provide medical countermeasures (including vaccines, antiviral drugs, antibiotics, antitoxin, etc.) in support of treatment or prophylaxis (oral or vaccination) to an identified population in accordance with public health guidelines and/or recommendations.”

- CDC Public Health Preparedness Capabilities March 2011



**Niagara County
Department of Health**

**Division of Public Health
Planning and Emergency
Preparedness**

5467 Upper Mountain Road
Suite 100
Lockport, New York 14094

Director

Tracy Fricano Chalmers
716-439-7431 (o)

tracy.fricanochalmers@niagaracounty.com

**Public Health Resource and
Strategic National Stockpile
Support Officer**

Francisco Meza Agüero, MS
716-439-7436 (o)

francisco.mezaaguero@niagaracounty.com



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Niagara County

**Department of
Health**



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Medical Countermeasure
Dispensing
During a Public Health
Emergency**



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Point of Dispensing: Open / Closed

Scenario:

During a public health emergency (such as an infectious disease outbreak), medical countermeasures will need to be distributed to large groups or to the entire population by means of Point of Dispensing (POD).

What are medical countermeasures?

This may include vaccines, antiviral drugs, antibiotics, antitoxin, etc. in support of treatment or prophylaxis (oral or vaccination).



How are medical countermeasures dispensed?

Medical countermeasures are distributed at POD sites which can be open or closed.

- **Open POD:** the main mechanism for dispensing medications to most of the population. It is open to the general public and operated by the Niagara County Department of Health.
- **Closed POD:** a location that is operated by a private organization for a target group which may include employees and their families and/or clients/members they serve. It is not open to the public.

Benefits of becoming a Closed POD

Partnering with the Niagara County Department of Health to become a Closed POD is an important way to make a difference for your employees and their families.

- Help to minimize the impact of an emergency on the community
- Assist in saving lives
- **Have the option to receive and dispense medications or administer vaccinations directly to employees and their families**
- Display commitment to employees' health and safety
- Ensure that vulnerable clients that are served within your organization receive access to the needed supplies in an emergency

- No direct cost to becoming a Closed POD
- Medical countermeasures and supplies provided during an emergency are free of charge
- Liability protections exist for Closed POD partners

Who is eligible to be a Closed POD?

Businesses, Nonprofits (Community Based, Faith based etc.), Governmental, Correctional, Educational (Universities, Colleges, High Schools, etc.), Health Care (Hospitals, Clinics, Nursing Homes, Long-Term Care, Assisted Living) and Religious Organizations

Closed POD Expectations

An identified Closed POD will dispense/administer medical countermeasures to its "closed" population which may include staff, clients, patients, etc. A Closed POD is not open to the general public.

The Niagara County Department of Health (NCDOH) and the closed POD partner will enter into an agreement via Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The NCDOH will work with the Closed POD site to develop a Closed POD Standard Operating Guide. Training and exercising of the plan will be the responsibility of the closed POD site with support from the NCDOH as needed.

In coordination with the NCDOH, closed POD sites will pre-plan, activate, set-up, staff, and manage a Closed Dispensing Site to distribute medical countermeasures to their pre-identified population.

Contact us today to learn more about becoming a Closed POD Site:

Tracy Fricano Chalmers, Director of Public Health Planning and Emergency Preparedness
716-439-7431

tracy.fricanochalmers@niagaracounty.com

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716-439-7436

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