



Bruce Barton  
Director

## CLOSED PODS

In addition to PODs managed by the EMD, other areas of the population can receive medications or vaccines through Closed PODs, which are operated by businesses and organizations. Closed PODs are not open to the general public and would receive medication from the EMD to distribute to employees, clientele, and their immediate families.

With the help of schools, universities, military installations, businesses and faith and community based organizations the burden on the public PODs can be greatly reduced. Closed PODs will help to decrease the number of people served in public PODs, and can reach community members who may have a difficult time moving through public PODs.

### **Common Closed POD Partners can include:**

- Large employers from both private and government organizations
- Hospitals, nursing homes, and residential care facilities
- Correctional facilities
- Higher education institutions
- Large hotels
- Community and Faith-based organizations
- Organizations with expertise delivering products
- Any other group or organization who is willing to dispense to others, but not necessarily open themselves up to dispense to the general public

### **What is the Closed POD Program?**

The Closed POD Program is an opportunity for businesses and other local organizations to assist the EMD in preparing for and responding to potentially serious, even catastrophic, public health threats to the community. Closed PODs receive medication from the EMD at no cost to the Closed POD. This medication is then distributed to employees, employee family members and other clientele.

### **What does your organization gain by becoming a Closed POD?**

- Helps EMD serve more people in less time, thereby reducing morbidity and mortality associated with a bioterrorism event.
- Provides a valuable and appreciated service to your employees and others.
- Added assurance that your employees will come to work instead of going to a public POD, thus improving your continuity of operations.
- Demonstrates community involvement; partnerships play a vital role in Riverside County's response to a Public Health Emergency.

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### **What does a Closed POD Do?**

- Distributes life-saving medication to employees, employee family members and other clientele to the best of its ability during an emergency that calls for mass prophylaxis of the entire population of Riverside County.

### **What types of organizations qualify to become a Closed POD?**

Your organization may qualify to become a Closed POD if you meet the following guidelines:

- Employ a large number of people
- Serve a large client base
- Serve people with functional needs
- Have a large facility to support dispensing operations

If you would like more information on Closed POD qualifications, please contact the Emergency Management Department at 951-358-7100.

### **How do we become a Closed POD?**

The first step to becoming a Closed POD is to complete this Closed POD Registration Form. When you submit the form, the Cities Readiness Initiative Coordinator or emergency planner will contact you to discuss in more detail about becoming a Closed POD.

### **What do we do if an emergency like this occurs?**

A representative from the County of Riverside Emergency Management Department will contact you to:

- Confirm that you will be able to dispense medications
- Confirm the number of courses that you are planning to dispense
- Tell you where you can pick up the **free** medication
- Give you any other information or direction that you may need at the time of the emergency