

# Integrating Infection Prevention and Control Science into POD-based Planning

## Module 1: Introduction



Climate and Crisis  
Preparedness

# Objectives

- Introduce basic medical countermeasure distribution/dispensing (MCM)
- Introduce POD concepts as a distribution/dispensing modality
- Introduce healthcare POD operations in the context of COVID-19

# Overview and Assumptions

- Point of Dispensing (POD) strategies may be operationalized during public health emergencies or more routine incidents impacting public health. PODs may be used for vaccinations or may be operationalized to dispense other medical countermeasures (MCMs) such as oral antibiotics.
- As of 2022, all 62 Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) cooperative recipients, as well as Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) local planning jurisdictions, are expected to participate in the CDC's operational readiness review (ORR) aimed to assess a local jurisdiction's ability to execute a large response requiring MCM distribution and dispensing.
  - Hospitals and Healthcare entities are encouraged to develop, maintain, and exercise closed POD plans.
- During public health emergencies, healthcare entities may be expected to support community and mass vaccination sites.

# Types of Countermeasure Distribution Modalities

- PODs (Points of Distribution/Dispensing):

**Open PODs:** public visits pre-identified site(s) to receive or pick up pre-delivered countermeasure when available or as instructed by the authorities in an area receiving these countermeasures

- As operationalized in the COVID19 pandemic, **Mass Vaccination Sites** are similar in scope and mission to the traditional POD system (which is deployed and operationalized under Federal programs, such as the Strategic National Stockpile and Cities readiness Initiative) for the distribution of a medical countermeasure

**Direct Delivery:** coordination to deliver specific countermeasures to specific location (as experienced in the COVID-19 response)

- Ideal for: hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living, etc.
- In many jurisdictions, these are also part of the Occupational or Closed PODs network

# Types of Countermeasure Distribution Modalities, (cont.)

**Occupational PODs or Closed PODs:** time is crucial in countermeasure distribution and dispensing efforts. The expected volume at Open PODs may prevent rapid uptake by the public, especially when physical distancing in a highly contagious, infectious disease pandemic is an ongoing threat. Private partnerships can accelerate local throughput and uptake by decompressing the volume at Open PODs and providing the appropriate MCMs at their occupational setting – these Occupational PODs are not always publicly known, but serve as a force-multiplier in getting the countermeasure to the public.

- Ideal for: larger employers, critical infrastructure stakeholders, first responders, etc.

- **Mobile Delivery:** countermeasure commodities are mobilized to specific areas or locations

- Ideal for: rural areas, hard to reach or marginalized communities, areas directly impacted by a disaster with disrupted road infrastructure

# Hospital and Healthcare Distribution

- Hospital and healthcare POD distribution typically employs multiple delivery modalities.

## **COVID-19 example:**

- Hospitals typically received vaccines either directly from the manufacturer or from the state allocation.
  - Facilities also utilized closed, on-site PODs for in-patient census and onsite personnel
  - Hospitals and healthcare agencies were also operating open community PODs (e.g., mass vaccination sites) as well as drive-thru PODs to dispense vaccines.
- The overall healthcare sector may be asked to support mass vaccination sites.
    - Healthcare entities have partnered with local public health and parish leadership to provide staff, space, planning guidance, and/or operational leadership and expertise to support mass vaccination events in that jurisdiction.

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