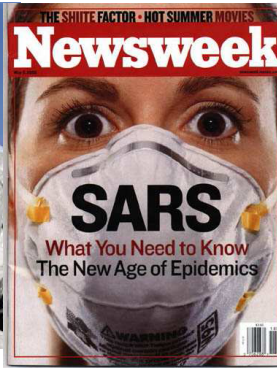


Protecting Your Business in Public Health Emergencies

Closed Points of Dispensing Program



BACKGROUND

During a public health emergency, where the Pinellas County Health Department is required to provide mass prophylaxis or vaccination to the residents and visitors of Pinellas County, the health department must be prepared to respond in a timely manner.

The Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) is part of the federal government's efforts to help local and state health departments prepare for and respond to disasters and events such as hurricanes, epidemics, and bioterrorist attacks. SNS medicines, antidotes, and other medical supplies are strategically placed in different locations around the country in order to facilitate quick deployment to state authorities. During an event, in consultation with local/county political and health leadership, the State Surgeon General for the Florida Department of Health (DOH) would initiate a request for the SNS to the Center's for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Upon receipt, SNS materiel is then distributed to Pinellas County in accordance with the state SNS plan. The Pinellas County Health Department would then open Points of Dispensing (PODs), or dispensing sites for mass dispensing of medicines.

There are two types of PODs. Open PODs are run by Pinellas County Health Department staff and are open to the general public. Currently, there are 23 open PODs in Pinellas County. Closed PODs are private locations that are closed to the general public and only dispense medicines to a specific population such as employees and employee's families.

PURPOSE

The Pinellas County Health Department is focused on partnering with businesses and organizations with more than 150 employees during public health emergencies in order to quickly save lives, and maintain continuity of business operations.

JUSTIFICATION

In an emergency situation, the Pinellas County Health Department may have difficulty dispensing medicines to the entire population (est. 917,000) within 48 hours. With the current plan in place to

use 23 open PODs, each POD must serve about 40,000 people or 19,000 people per hour for a consecutive 48 hours. Staffing and resource limitations would prevent us from reaching this goal. However, with the help of Pinellas County businesses, we can effectively dispense medicines, alleviate the patient volume that's taxing on open PODs, and provide an opportunity for businesses to continue to operate!

BENEFITS TO EMPLOYER

- **FREE** benefit to employer, employees, and their families
- Employers receive antibiotics quickly
- Ensures continuity of operations
- The more prepared, the longer business stays open
- Saves money
- Sends positive message to employees
- Improves public relation

BENEFITS TO EMPLOYEES

- Receive FREE life-saving medication and training in disaster preparedness
- Employees and their families receive medication faster
- Employees and families are protected
- Employees return to work faster
- Increases loyalty and sense of security
- Reduces stress and anxiety

BENEFITS TO PINELLAS COUNTY

- Increases opportunity to save lives
- Reduces the burden on the health department during public health emergencies
- Community is better prepared for a disaster

For more information about the Closed POD Program, please contact the Pinellas County Health Department's Public Health Preparedness Program.



Closed Points of Dispensing Program
Pinellas County Health Department
Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the Closed PODs Program?

The Pinellas County Health Department is focused on partnering with large businesses and organizations during public health emergencies in order to quickly save lives, and maintain continuity of business operations.

What are the requirements to be a partner?

The only requirement is that your organization must have 150 or more employees.

How much is it going to cost?

Nothing! Medication and training is FREE of charge.

Will there be training provided?

Yes. Training opportunities will be made available by the Pinellas County Health Department.

When would we be asked to dispense medications at our facility?

Only after the activation or request of the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) would we call for your facility to serve as a Closed POD.

Who will staff this program in my facility?

It depends on the type of countermeasures offered for the public health emergency; however, your staff can be used to run base operations.

Will people be allowed to pick up medications for their families?

Yes, employees will be allowed to pick up medications for their families.

How will medication be packaged?

The medication will be packaged for individual use. Appropriate dosage instructions will accompany each bottle of medication.

What about pets?

The medications provided to your facility are for humans only. Employees with pets should contact their 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, you may offer medications to all your employees and their families; however those who travel long distances may choose to go to an Open POD closer to their home.

Will our organization have to operate after-hours, during the weekend, or on a holiday?

Possibly. Public health emergencies can occur at any time. It is essential that your organization be prepared to operate 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 voluntary 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 within Florida statutes.



Rick Scott
Governor

H. Frank Farmer, Jr., MD, PhD, FACP
State Surgeon General

October 1, 2011

Dear Pinellas County Business Leader:

During H1N1, we had great success working with businesses to provide over 200,000 vaccinations to Pinellas County residents and visitors. Since then, others in the state have realized the importance of developing creative dispensing strategies in preparation for a large outbreak.

In the event that the county is the target of a bio-terrorism attack or epidemic, the Pinellas County Health Department is prepared to act quickly and decisively to dispense needed medications to every person in the county. It is a difficult task, but one I am confident we can achieve with the help of many people.

The Pinellas County Health Department's Public Health Preparedness Program wants to identify and enroll businesses that want to take the lead in protecting their most important assets, their employees. You can play a role in this important lifesaving effort by joining the Closed Point of Dispensing (POD) program and agreeing to be a dispenser in your workplace for your employees and their families. In doing so, you can help speed the delivery of crucial medications. In return, your business will be one of the first to receive **FREE** life-saving medication, be able to maintain continuity of operations, save money, and improve public relations to your employees, their families, and the community.

I encourage you to consider helping us in our efforts to protect and promote the health of all residents and visitors by joining our Closed POD program.

If you have any questions, concerns, or need additional information, please contact the Pinellas County Health Department's Public Health Preparedness Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CDharamraj", enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Claude Dharamraj, M.D., M.P.H, F.A.A.P.
Director

**BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS**

Nancy Bostock
Neil Brickfield
Susan Latvala
John Morroni
Norm Roche
Karen Williams Seel
Kenneth T. Welch



October 19, 2011

Dear Pinellas County Business Leader:

As one of the local agencies tasked with preparing for a bio-terrorism attack, or another pandemic, I'm writing to inform you of our support of the Pinellas County Health Department's initiative to establish a Closed Points of Dispensing (POD) program with businesses throughout the County.

As you can imagine, the challenges associated with preparing and responding to such large scale events are many. The success the Health Department experienced in working with local businesses during the H1N1 pandemic clearly supports that such a partnership is good for all involved parties, and the community at large, in the face of those challenges.

The size of our jurisdiction requires creative approaches in order to respond to and protect those who live and work within Pinellas County, especially in light of the goal to dispense medications to the entire population (est. 917,000) within 48 hours.

That is where you can help. The Closed POD program is one that can benefit you, your employees and their families by being some of the first to receive medications, while helping the Health Department concentrate their limited staff on the locations where the general public will respond en masse.

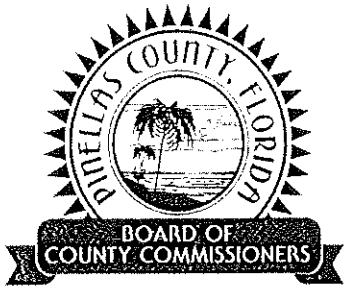
Enclosed you will find much more detail regarding the program. I encourage you to review the materials and invite the Health Department to answer your questions about this valuable opportunity to prepare your organization and employees as well as assist the community.

Sincerely,

Sally Bishop
Director, Pinellas County Emergency Management

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO:
400 S. Ft. Harrison Ave. Suite 111
Clearwater, Florida 33756
Phone: (727) 464-3800
FAX: (727) 464-4024
TDD: (727) 464-4431
ema@co.pinellas.fl.us
Website: www.pinellascounty.org/emergency





SUSAN LATVALA
CHAIRMAN

November 8, 2011

PINELLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PHONE (727) 464-3276 • FAX (727) 464-3022 • 315 COURT STREET • CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33756
www.pinellascounty.org

Dear Business Leaders of Pinellas County:

Pinellas County has close to 917,000 residents, which includes a labor force of over 440,000 working individuals. During the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, many businesses were faced with the challenge of keeping their operations going in the face of a large scale public health emergency. If our area is faced with another disease outbreak or a bio-terrorism attack, we will have to quickly deliver medication to our densely populated county. This presents many issues including disabling our workforce.

As a response to a public health emergency, the Pinellas County Health Department has designed the Closed Points of Dispensing (POD) program which is focused on partnering with large businesses in order to save lives and maintain continuity of business operations. As a businesswoman in my own right, I strongly believe in protecting the health and safety of employees and their families.

The Closed POD program is an invaluable benefit for your company, your employees, and the county as a whole. Participating in the program will allow your employees to be the first to receive medications, will help keep your business' doors open, and will be vital in protecting our county's workforce.

I fully support the preparedness efforts of the Pinellas County Health Department and their Closed POD program designed to meet the needs of our residents, visitors, and the business community. Without hesitation, I urge your business to learn more about the program and consider partnering with the Pinellas County Health Department's Closed POD program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Latvala".

Susan Latvala, Chairman
Pinellas County Commission





Closed Points of Dispensing Program
Pinellas County Health Department
Agency Information Form

As a Closed POD, the Pinellas County Health Department may need to contact you during work time or after hours in the event of an emergency. Personal contact information will remain confidential and would only be used during an emergency. Fields in gray allow you to enter information.

Provider Information

Facility Name			
Address 1			
Address 2			
City		State	
		Zip Code	
Main Phone		Extension	
		Fax	

Contact Information

1st Contact

Name		Title	
Phone		Email	
After Hours #		Preferred Contact Method (Check one):	
		☐ Phone ☐ After-Hours ☐ E-mail	

2nd Contact

Name		Title	
Phone		Email	
After Hours #		Preferred Contact Method (Check one):	
		☐ Phone ☐ After-Hours ☐ E-mail	

3rd Contact

Name		Title	
Phone		Email	
After Hours #		Preferred Contact Method (Check one):	
		☐ Phone ☐ After-Hours ☐ E-mail	

Coordinating Clinician Information (if applicable)

Clinician Name			
Medical License #			
Clinician E-mail			
Clinician Phone		After Hours	

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Via Email: Click on **"Submit by Email"** button.
Via Fax: Click on **"Print Form"** and fax to: PinCHD PHP - 727-538-7293