

Closed POD | Frequently Asked Questions

How Do I Become a Closed Point-of-Dispensing (POD) Partner?

- Communicate interest by contacting Emergency Preparedness (EP) unit at ochd-ep@oakgov.com.
- Fill out the [Planning Survey](#), select Add New Organization and provide information requested.
- EP will connect with you to set up a plan review meeting.
- Complete EP training.

What is the liability for providing medications to employees and their family members?

Liability issues are a common concern that employers have expressed when asked to distribute or dispense medical countermeasures on behalf of public health. Liability protection is provided to organizations at the federal level when a Public Readiness Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act declaration is issued.

The PREP Act authorizes the Secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services to issue a PREP Act declaration in response to a public health emergency. A PREP Act declaration provides immunity from tort liability claims (except willful misconduct) to individuals or organizations involved in the manufacture, distribution, or dispensing of medical countermeasures. PREP Act declarations have been issued many times in the past. The most recent example was COVID-19 in 2020.

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 strike at any time. It is essential that your organization be prepared to operate your Closed POD during non-working hours.

Prepare your facility for a quick and efficient POD, if necessary:

- Develop after-hours contact lists for key individuals
- Evaluate your facility and determine how long it would take to open and provide services
- Create communication/notification to alert and inform your employees during non-working hours

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

As a Closed POD, you should expect to provide medications to all employees and their families. Long-distance commuters should be included in the planning process, but they are NOT required to attend your POD. It may be more convenient for these individuals to attend Open (public) PODs near their residences.

Could some parts of the region be affected more than others?

Public health emergencies can vary dramatically depending on factors such as weather, the disease, the mode of transmission, etc. It is entirely possible that some parts of the region may be required to provide emergency medications while others may not. Oakland County Health Division (OCHD) will use epidemiology—the study and/or investigation of diseases and outbreaks in a defined area or population—to determine the full impact of the public health emergency. Please be aware that even though an emergency event might occur, the services of your Closed POD may not be needed. OCHD will provide up-to-date information throughout the incident.

What if employees work in Oakland County, but live in another county?

This plan is intended to cover all employees who work at your organization no matter where they reside. If an employee is unable to report to work, they may go to an Open POD in their resident county.

What happens after dispensing operations are completed?

Upon notifying OCHD that you have completed your medication dispensing, you will be instructed to transition to recovery and provide the following to OCHD:

- Any unused medications
- Copies of all Head of Household medication screening forms