

WHAT TO EXPECT AT A POINT OF DISPENSING

During a widespread disease outbreak or release of a bioterrorism agent, Maryland will work with local health departments to set up points of dispensing (PODs) to quickly distribute medications and supplies to local communities. What can you expect at a POD?

LARGE CROWDS AND LONG LINES

Thousands of citizens will be reporting to these locations within a short period of time. Be prepared for large crowds and long lines. Be patient and courteous.

TIGHT SECURITY

The POD needs to be safe and secure. Law enforcement personnel will be present in large numbers, some in uniform and others in plain clothes. You must cooperate with law enforcement and health department personnel at all times. This will speed up the medicine distribution process.

NEWS MEDIA

Reporters could be at many POD locations and may want to ask you questions. If you choose to be interviewed, please work with POD staff to accommodate reporters. Staff will work to keep media activities orderly and separate from essential distribution activities.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Local health department representatives will be wearing identification. Official staff members will be stationed at well-marked locations. They will be able to answer questions and distribute forms.

GENERAL ADVICE

- Be prepared to answer health questions to obtain medicine for each of your family members
- You may pick up medication for an elderly or disabled person who may have trouble getting to the site
- Do not bring children; only a designated head of household needs to report to the POD
- Do not bring pets unless they are a service animal
- Bring nonperishable snack food items such as dried fruit, nuts, crackers, and energy bars to sustain you
- Bring reading material such as a book, magazine, or crossword puzzle to occupy your time in line
- Cellphone use may be restricted to ensure that emergency personnel can communicate on-site. Signs will direct you to turn off your cellphone if necessary

MORE INFORMATION

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Office of Preparedness
and Response