

**What is the purpose of a Closed POD?**

To provide life saving medications to a designated population of people and their family members during a public health emergency.

**What are the requirements for becoming a Closed POD?**

In St. Louis County, organizations with at least 75 employees or members, and who would be expected to dispense medications to at least 300 people are eligible to become **Closed PODs**. (This is based on the presumption that the average employee or member would also be given medications for themselves and for three dependants.)

**How much is it going to cost?**

Medications and training are **free** of charge.

**Will there be training provided?**

Yes. Training of Closed POD managers will be provided periodically by the St. Louis County and the State of Missouri Departments of Health.

**When would we be asked to dispense medications at their own facility?**

The only time the health department would ask organizations to dispense medications to your enrollees would be if there is a great risk to the entire population in the region and preventive medications needed to be taken immediately.

**Who operates the Closed POD?**

Employees or members within your organization will operate the **Closed POD** with oversight from a certified medical professional. Your Closed POD will not be

operated by the St. Louis County DOH or the State of Missouri.

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

Yes, the employees, members, faculty and students who you have designated as enrollees will be allowed to pick up medications for their families. Businesses and organizations hosting Closed PODs are not required to offer the medications to family members, but it is strongly encouraged. Family members do not need to come to the Closed POD, but they will need to be accounted for, and must submit the same screening forms other enrollees are required to complete.

**How will medication be packaged?**

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

**Who needs to take the medication?**

Under this type of emergency, the entire population within a community will need to take the medication. This includes adults and children. Appropriate dosage instructions will accompany each bottle of medication that is dispensed at the **Closed POD**.

**What about pets?**

The medications provided at the **Closed POD** are for humans only. Enrollees 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**, expect to make medications available to all of your employees and their families, realizing that long distance commuters may choose to go to an open POD closer to their home.

**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 occur at any time. It is essential that your organization be prepared to operate a **Closed POD** during non-working hours since the lives of your enrollees 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 a voluntary program 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 Missouri statutes.