

How can I help during an emergency?

Medical and non-medical volunteers are needed at PODs.

For more information and to get involved contact:

Your local Emergency Management Agency

<http://www.riema.ri.gov/response/local/index.php>

- or -

Rhode Island Department of Health

www.health.ri.gov/programs/medicalemergencydistributionsystem



Benefits of Volunteering at a POD.

Besides helping your community survive and recover from a public health emergency, you get the medicine or vaccine for you and your family, before the POD opens to the public, so you can focus on your job at the POD and not worry about your family.

Don't wait until the emergency to volunteer...

The time to learn how the system works and what you can do at a POD is **NOW**. We train and exercise the plan annually.

Getting Medicine During a Public Health Emergency

- ▶ Points of Dispensing (PODs)
- ▶ Where to go
- ▶ What to bring
- ▶ How to get involved



**Center for Emergency Preparedness and Response
Medical Emergency Distribution System (MEDS)**

What is a Point of Dispensing (POD)?

A Point of Dispensing (POD) is a central place where you and others in your community can get medications or vaccines that will help keep you from getting sick during a public health emergency.

PODs are run by each city and town in Rhode Island using guidance from the Rhode Island Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Why would a POD be opened?

A POD would be opened if there was a need to get medicine or vaccine quickly to a large number of people due to an outbreak of a disease that is easily spread from person to person, or a bioterrorism event, such as an anthrax attack.



PODs are NOT for treating sick people.

Rhode Island Department of Health officials will tell you the best place to go for medical care during the emergency if you are sick.

What should I expect at a POD?

During a public health emergency, at a POD:

- ▶ A specific medicine or vaccine will be **free for everyone**
- ▶ You will not be asked for identification
- ▶ You will not be asked about your residency status
- ▶ If pills are being given, *only one person* needs to go to the POD to pick up the medicine for everyone in your family or group
- ▶ If vaccines are being used, *everyone* will need to go to the POD to get vaccinated in person

Each city and town in Rhode Island has a plan for its POD that they have tested to ensure people can move through the POD as quickly as possible, but there will be lines.

You will need to provide the following information for each person to receive medications or vaccine:

- > List of all medicines being taken
- > List of allergies
- > List of health conditions
- > Age and approximate weight

How will I know where my POD is located?

To find out more about the locations and hours of the POD closest to you during an emergency, check local radio, television, social media and/or newspapers, or:

- ▶ The Rhode Island Department of Health website:
www.health.ri.gov

