

Closed POD Initiative

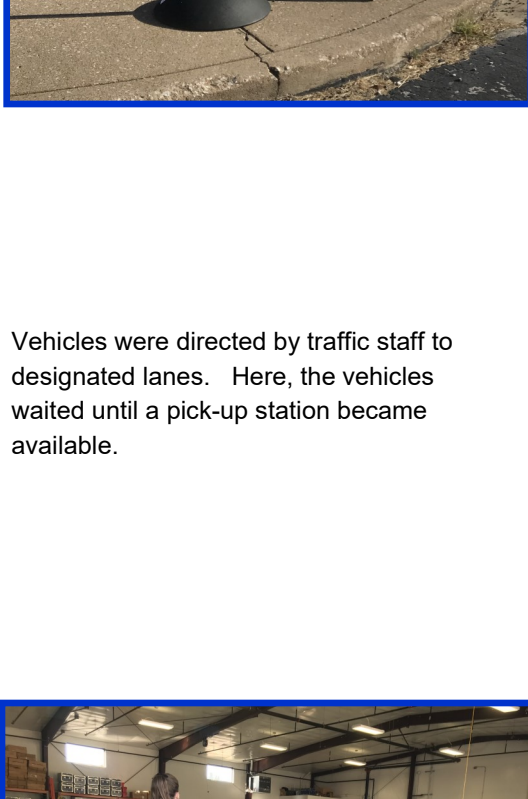
“Star-Spangled Fright” Full Scale Exercise

The St. Louis Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) conducted a bi-state full scale exercise from October 1st to October 10th. Local health departments established 10-day PODs and, as a region, established a 50-day POD.

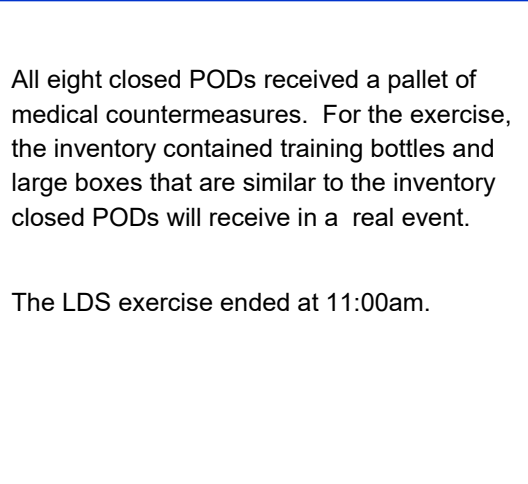
During the week of October 1st, the Madison County Health Department exercised an anthrax response strategy which activated a Local Distribution Site (LDS) and notification to several trained closed PODs in Madison County.

The Health Department operated a LDS on October 8th. Health Department staff , MRC volunteers, SIUE School of Nursing faculty and students supported the operations. Multiple stations including Receiving, Packing, and Shipping were stood up. There were eight trained closed PODs who received medical countermeasures during the exercise.

In the afternoon of October 8th, multiple trained closed PODs operated their 10-day PODs at their specific location. Training prophylaxis bottles were available to closed PODs in order for their medical staff to practice dispensing medical countermeasures to their specific population.



Vehicles were directed by traffic staff to designated lanes. Here, the vehicles waited until a pick-up station became available.



All eight closed PODs received a pallet of medical countermeasures. For the exercise, the inventory contained training bottles and large boxes that are similar to the inventory closed PODs will receive in a real event.

The LDS exercise ended at 11:00am.



The exercise showcased the LDS Plan’s strengths and areas of improvement. Eight vehicles were able to pick-up medical countermeasure inventory in an hour. To improve efficiency and safety, traffic flow will be revised and practiced during the next exercise. Closed PODs received the correct inventory. However, not all vehicles were able to properly receive a pallet of inventory. All strengths and areas of improvement will be addressed in the After Action Report and Improvement Plan.

What’s Happening Next With The Closed POD Initiative?

POD Exercise

If your facility participated in Star-Spangled Fright and wish to share your outcome to other closed PODs, contact Michele Milton to add your experience in the next newsletter.

Annual Survey

The Madison County Health Department will begin to contact our closed POD partners to verify points of contact and pre-identified numbers in December. Community Survey Forms will be sent to the correct point of contact. The form will ask for an updated number of staff and residents (if applicable).

The information helps us maintain the correct contact information in our electronic notification system as well as help us prepare the received SNS inventory for each facility in a real-event.

Community Outreach to Recruit Closed PODs

The Madison County Health Department has worked to obtain memorandums of understanding with community partners to become closed PODs. The health department continues to target organizations that serve vulnerable populations.

Our Closed POD Initiative will now expand to those who serve the pediatric population. We look forward to collaborating with these partners who have the capability to provide medical countermeasures to this particular population.

Upcoming Drills

There will be opportunities in 2020 for trained closed PODs to participate in upcoming drills. A Notification Drill and a SNS Request and Reports Drill will be conducted before June of 2020. Information will be sent out prior to these drills.

#ClosedPODsSaveLives

Questions or comments? Email us at mmilton@co.madison.il.us or call 618-296-6080.