

# Volunteer Information

Volunteers are key to the success of the POD! As a volunteer you may work directly with individuals at the POD site to answer questions and help direct them on where to go. You may also work behind the scenes helping with inventory and support for the POD operations.

Volunteers will always receive:

- Prophylaxis for themselves and their families before the POD opens
- Just in time training on the incident, POD operations and their role
- All equipment needed to complete their role

## Ready to Volunteer?

To become a Jefferson County Public Health volunteer, please register with the Colorado Volunteer Mobilizer (CVM) prior to an incident. To Register:

1. Visit <https://covolunteers.state.co.us>
2. Select *Register Now*
3. Under *Organization*, select *Public and Environmental Health Organizations* and then select *P&EH – Jefferson*
4. Complete the rest of the application

Public Health... Every day, Everywhere, Everyone

# Be Prepared!

The best way to help your community in an emergency is for you and your family to be personally prepared. Follow these simple steps, and for more information please visit [emergency.cdc.gov](http://emergency.cdc.gov)

# 1

## Get A Kit

Keep an emergency kit with basic items like food, water and disaster supplies at your home, office and in your car.

# 2

## Make A Plan

Have a basic plan for your family that includes where to go in an evacuation and how to contact each other (without your cell phone).

# 3

## Be Informed

Know what types of emergencies are most likely to impact your family and what to do if they occur.

## Questions?

Public Health Emergency Preparedness  
Jefferson County Public Health  
[cbilling@jeffco.us](mailto:cbilling@jeffco.us)  
303-271-8394

May 2014



## Public Health Emergency Preparedness

## Points of Dispensing: The Basics



303-232-6301

[jeffco.us/public-health](http://jeffco.us/public-health)

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# What is a POD?

# POD Operations

# What would we need to use a POD?

A POD (point of dispensing) is the location where mass dispensing\* of prophylaxis\*\* occurs. There are two types of PODs:

- Open PODs
- Closed PODs

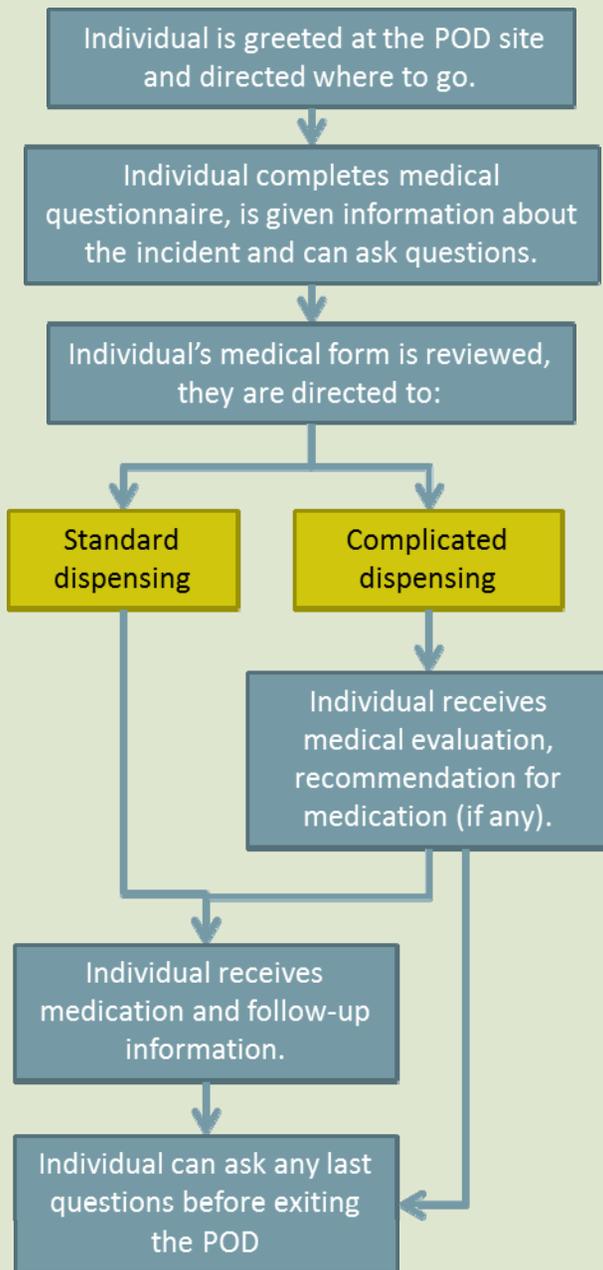
Open PODs are open to the public and are operated by local public health agencies. Closed PODs are operated by a private agency and limited to a private group, such as the agency's employees and their families. Both types of PODs provide prophylaxis for free.

A POD does not provide routine or emergency medical care, and only dispenses medicine appropriate to the emergency at hand. Medicines are not stored at POD but made available on day of dispensing.

Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) has plans in place to open ~8 open POD sites across the county if needed. Additionally, JCPH is working with ~10 closed POD agencies across the county.

\*Mass dispensing is the process of providing prophylaxis very quickly to a large group of people who may have been exposed to a pathogen or disease causing agent.

\*\*Prophylaxis is use of medicine (vaccine, antibiotics, antiviral and other medications) for the prevention of a disease or the control of its possible spread.



Local public health agencies design their POD plans to prepare for an anthrax attack because that would require the fastest response. However POD plans are flexible and can be used in a variety of incidents.

## Anthrax Attack

*Bacillus anthracis*, the bacteria that causes anthrax, is one of the most likely agents to be used in a biological attack. A biological attack, or bioterrorism, is the intentional release of viruses, bacteria, or other germs that can sicken or kill people, livestock, or crops. In the event of an anthrax attack, PODs would be opened to provide antibiotics to the entire exposed population as quickly as possible.

## Epidemic Influenza

Epidemic influenza occurs unexpectedly when a new strain of the influenza virus is passed from another animal species to humans. Humans do not have any immunity to these new strains of influenza like they do to older strains, which allows the new strains to spread extremely rapidly and infect very large numbers of people. If a vaccine is available during an influenza epidemic, like it was for H1N1 in 2009, PODs could be opened to provide the vaccine to the community rapidly. A POD might also be used to provide routine seasonal influenza vaccines to the community.