

# Medication Dispensing Centers (PODs) FACT SHEET

## WHEN HELP IS NEEDED FAST

It may be necessary to open medication dispensing centers (also known as Points of Dispensing or POD) where residents can pick up emergency medications or receive vaccinations during a natural disaster, an outbreak of a contagious disease, or when someone purposely spreads germs or chemicals to make people sick. At the POD you will be given medicine from official sources, such as antibiotics, antivirals, and/or vaccines to reduce the risk associated with the type of emergency.

PODs are set up quickly and in numerous locations to get medicines and treatment advice to the people in the community as soon as possible. The PODs will be located in large public buildings such as schools, arenas, or churches in several geographic areas to lessen time and travel. Agreements have been made to utilize these facilities in such times of need.

- ➔ **MEDICINES GIVEN AT THE PODS WILL BE FREE.**
- ➔ PODs will be easy to find and can take care of many people.
- ➔ Federal, state, and local authorities will make sure there is enough safe medicine for everyone who needs it.
- ➔ Depending on the type of emergency, one person may be able to pick up medications for a household or group.
- ➔ PODs are designed to dispense protective medication only and are not designed to treat ill patients. **DO NOT COME TO A POD IF YOU ARE ILL.** Alternative sites will be identified for anyone that is ill.

**It is IMPORTANT to get medicines from official sources only.  
Medicines purchased from “unofficial sources” could be harmful to you and your family.**

## WHERE DO I GO?

Southwest District Health will announce when medication dispensing centers will open, where the sites are located in southwest Idaho, directions to the sites, what time you should go to the site, what to bring to the site, and what to expect when you get there. In most cases these sites will not be made public until an emergency occurs. You will then be able to determine the facility nearest you.

Please pay close attention to TV, radio, and newspaper or refer to SWDH's Emergency Response website for the most current updates at [www.swdh.org](http://www.swdh.org). A hotline number will also be available to answer your questions.

