

How can I help during an emergency?

Medical and non-medical volunteers will be needed to support health department staff at a POD. If you are interested in volunteering register at the Michigan Volunteer Registry website or consider volunteering at the Red Cross. You are encouraged that you register or volunteer prior to an event or crisis.



Get Involved

Michigan Volunteer Registry
www.mivolunterregistry.org

**American Red Cross
Genesee—Lapeer Chapter**
www.geneseelapeer-redcross.org
(810) 232-1401 ext. 724

Learn More

Genesee County Health Department
www.gchd.us

FEMA
www.ready.gov

**Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention**
www.emergency.cdc.gov

To learn more about public health emergency preparedness in Genesee County, contact:

Genesee County Health Department
April Swartout
Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
(810) 424-4441
aswartout@gchd.us

Getting Medicine/ Vaccination During a Public Health Emergency

Points of Dispensing (POD)

- Where to go*
- What to bring*
- How to get involved*



**Genesee County
Health Department**
Your Health. Our Work.

**Genesee County Health Department
Emergency Preparedness Program**
(810) 257-3612
www.gchd.us

What is a Point of Dispensing

A **Point of Dispensing (POD)** is a place where you can get medicine or vaccines that will help keep you from getting sick in a public health emergency.

The goal of the POD is to make sure that **anyone that needs medicine can get it.**



Why would a POD be opened?

A POD would be opened if there was a need to distribute medicine quickly to many people due to:

- An outbreak of a disease that is easily spread from person to person such as Hepatitis A or influenza
or
- An uncommon event like an anthrax attack

How will I know where my POD is located?

A POD location is usually:

- In a large public building like a local school or community center
- Chosen by the health department before an emergency, but the locations may not be announced until an emergency actually happens

To find out more about the locations and hours of the POD closest to you, check:

- Local radio
- Local television
- Newspapers
- City, town, & health department web sites
- Local public health or city/town officials

What do I need to bring to the POD?

Bring the following for you and anyone else you're picking up medicine for:

- List of medicines being taken
- List of allergies to medicines
- List of health conditions
- List of the ages and approximate weights of any children

What do I need to know about getting medicine or a vaccine at a POD?

During a public health emergency:

- A specific medicine or vaccine will be **free to everyone**
- You will not be asked about your immigration status
- If bottles of pills are needed, *only one* person needs to go to the POD to pick up the medicine for the entire household
- If vaccines are needed, *everyone* will need to go to the POD to get their vaccine



Will I have to wait in line to get my medicine?

Lines may be long so you should:

- Bring water and snacks for waiting in line
- Be sure to wear comfortable, weather-appropriate clothing
- Stay calm

A POD will not treat sick people. State and local public health officials will tell you the best place to go for medical care during the emergency.