Frequently Asked Questions?

How many employees do we need to be considered for a Business POD?

The Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA) requires a minimum of 1000 employees to be considered a Business POD.

What costs would we incur in becoming a Business POD?

The Business POD program is free. Personnel time towards the trainings and operation of the Business POD are the only costs you will incur.

Do we need an MOU/MOA to initiate the process?

No, an MOU/MOA is not required to develop a Business POD Plan. OCHCA is currently exploring the possibility of an MOU/MOA for establishing Business POD sites.

How will our business be notified to activate our Business POD?

By taking part in the Business POD program, you are allowing yourself access to the Orange County Health Care Agency's notification system. This system will notify your designated contact via email or phone upon POD site activation. In addition, you will be part of the Business Preparedness Executive Committee (BPEC), receiving important information regarding the incident or other health related emergencies.

How will we receive our medications? Are we allowed to distribute medications to offsite locations?

You will be responsible to pickup your pre-identified medication at the location designated by OCHCA. It is up to your business to allocate and dispense these medications within your business.

How many medications will we receive?

Medication allocation is pre-determined based on the number of employees and their immediate family members.

What is the cost of the medications?

There are no costs for the medications; they are part of the Strategic National Stockpile.

Are we required to store any medications or supplies for our Business POD?

You are not required to store medications onsite prior to activation. Storage of medication occurs once you have been activated and have picked up your medications. The spaced needed to store the medications is minimal and is based on the number of medications you request.

What is the time commitment in becoming a Business POD?

The Business POD program is designed to be flexible and efficient. The entire planning process is estimated to take 3-10 hours.



Facts & Questions cont'd.

How many staff are needed to operate a Business POD?

A minimal number of staff is needed to operate a Business POD. The numbers will vary depending on the number of employees and families you prepare for.

Do employee's family members come to the Business POD site?

OCHCA recommends that employees obtain the medication for their immediate family members and bring it home at the end of the work day.

We are only open Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm. Are we expected to activate if the incident occurs after hours?

Our goal is to dispense medications to the Orange County population as quickly as possible. Our Business POD model is designed to provide emergency medication on-site during regular business hours. However, if an emergency of this scale were to occur, you have the option of opening your Business POD or sending your employees and their families to the nearest Community POD.

What happens after Business POD operations?

After you have dispensed medication to your employees, you will need to contact OCHCA and return the following: copies of the Patient Information and Medical History forms and any unused medications.

