



NEWS RELEASE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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ADPH exercises operating a Point of Dispensing Site during an emergency

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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On June 5, the Alabama Department of Public Health will conduct a full-scale exercise focused on operating a Point of Dispensing Site, also known as a POD. This event will serve as a real-time exercise that demonstrates the emergency operations for any future occurrence that would require dispensing medication to the mass public in Alabama during a man-made or natural emergency.

"This exercise will allow us to test the plans we have in place to protect the public in the event a disease outbreak, terrorist attack or other emergency severe enough to cause local supplies to run out occurs," said Wanda Heard, Public Relations Coordinator for Jefferson County Health Department. "We want to ensure that medicine and medical supplies are delivered in time to be effective."

The exercise will be held at Tarrant High School located in Jefferson County, one of the state's seven Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) counties. CRI counties are part of a federally funded program that is designed to enhance preparedness in the nation's major metropolitan statistical areas.

Exercise activities will take place from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The exercise is a collaborative effort with federal and state partners including Public Health, Alabama Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Marshals Service, Alabama State Capitol Police, Alabama Marine Police and the Alabama Department of Public Safety. Staff from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will be attending to both observe and evaluate the department's readiness to receive the Strategic National Stockpile and administer medication to the public.

For more information on emergency preparedness, please visit adph.org/cep.

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