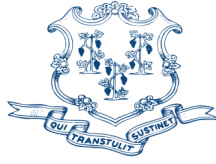


STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Commissioner



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Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response

DATE: May 6, 2024 OPHPR-2024-05

TO: Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) Contractors

FROM: Lisa Bushnell, SNS Coordinator
Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response

RE: Medical Countermeasure Workgroup

The Department of Public Health (DPH) Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response (OPHPR) would like to re-establish a Medical Countermeasure (MCM) Workgroup. We are requesting that each regional CRI contractor seek input from your respective region's local health departments to identify designated participants for the MCM Workgroup. OPHPR will be hosting a CRI contractor call on May 16th (1-2PM), at which time we will discuss this initiative and also ask you for the list of regional MCM Workgroup designees. Each region will be limited to a maximum of 5 designees.

The workgroup will serve as a forum for members to share lessons learned from the COVID-19 response and exchange best practices to inform medical countermeasure (MCM) plans. MCM subject matter experts (SMEs) with both clinical and non-clinical backgrounds from each of Connecticut's five preparedness regions, along with staff from the Department of Public Health and other partners will serve on the MCM workgroup.

Initial Meeting

We will hold the first MCM Workgroup meeting on Wednesday, June 12th from 9-10am. Following introductions, the meeting will focus on updating the Point of Dispensing (POD)/Point of Vaccination (POV) and Regional Distribution Site (RDS) survey forms, determining the best meeting format (in-person or virtual, or both), and drafting an ongoing meeting schedule.

The POD, POV and RDS forms have been historically used to collect general site information such as:

- the type of site (POD/POV or RDS)
- walk-in or drive-through POD/POV
- points of contact
- details on available space
- access control points
- receiving/loading dock details, and
- throughput capacity



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During the pandemic, we successfully worked through several unanticipated challenges. In many jurisdictions, school sites were designated POD and POV sites, but they were not available due to conflicting alternative uses, or towns had difficulty with logistical matters that were not previously considered. We have an opportunity to apply lessons learned when updating the POD, POV and RDS forms, so that they are useful to all of us.

MCM Workgroup

We anticipate that additional topics and opportunities for improvement will be identified, prioritized, and addressed by the workgroup. Below are suggested future topics for the MCM workgroup to address:

- 1) review CGS 19a-131 and identify an option to ensure medical professionals and volunteers dispensing or administering MCMs during an emergency, in a POD/POV, are protected from liability.
- 2) update CRI's Regional Distribution Site (RDS) warehouse and the state's Receive, Stage, and Store (RSS) warehouse transportation security plans.
- 3) update regional and local site security plans. This process will begin by completing an RDS and POD/POV site survey form and coordinating with local or state law enforcement on the development of a security plan.
- 4) clarify and document the cold chain management capacity at the local and regional level. Review and confirm that local POD/POVs and RDSs have documented how they will receive, store, and equip their respective sites in accordance with federal guidelines.

Our MCM team and I look forward to beginning this important collaboration. Please feel free to contact me at lisa.bushnell@ct.gov or at 860 305-0291 if you have any questions.

c: Francesca Provenzano, Section Chief
William Gerrish, Health Program Supervisor