



NEWS RELEASE

St. Charles County Government

Department of Community Health and the Environment

Gil Copley, Director

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ST. CHARLES COUNTY HEALTH TO PRACTICE MEDICAL DISTRIBUTION PLAN JUNE 28

Exercise Offers Chicken Sandwiches as Thank You for Community Participation

St. Charles County, Missouri – In the event of a large-scale biological attack or a natural disaster requiring the delivery of medical resources to the community, the St. Charles County Department of Community Health and the Environment would institute a medication distribution plan in coordination with other regional entities. The department asks for community participation in its exercise on Thursday, June 28 that will test the capabilities of staff and other regional partners in completing roles in this plan.

“While we hope that we’ll never have to implement this plan in a real emergency, we regularly test our capabilities in the event that we should,” Department Director **Gil Copley** said. “While the health department would direct the operation of the plan, successful implementation would require cooperation and assistance from our entire community, which is why we’re asking for county-wide support for this event on June 28. Along with testing our ability to implement our plan, the goal of this operation is to strengthen the regional partnerships we’ve established. Everyone can play a part in this exercise from individuals and groups interested in serving as patients to trained medical personnel that join us as Medical Reserve Corps volunteers.”

Coordinated by the health department, the June 28 exercise will simulate the response to a biological terrorism incident in St. Charles County, which would require providing all county residents and visitors to the area with life-saving medication within 48 hours of the incident. To accommodate this, the department will establish a drive-through Point of Dispensing (POD) site, where staff and volunteers will practice their roles in the response. Operating from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the drive-through POD exercise will be conducted on a parking lot adjacent to Mid Rivers Mall in St. Peters.

Individuals and groups can participate in the exercise by serving as drive-through patient seeking medication. The first 500 participants in the exercise will receive a sandwich and gift bag provided by Chick-Fil-A (6180 Mid Rivers Mall Drive in St. Peters) as a thank you for assisting with the event. All individuals in a car or larger vehicle will be considered independent participants for the purposes of this exercise, so carpooling is encouraged. To register as a group or individual participant or for information on joining the Medical Reserve Corps, please contact Joe Morin at 636-949-7554.

(MORE)

(JUNE 28 PUBLIC HEALTH EXERCISE – continued)

“This exercise will help our community to become better prepared for whatever emergency we may face next,” Copley added. “We’ve chosen to practice the operation of a drive-through POD site, as this system has proven in other areas to be a convenient and efficient method for assisting a large population in times of emergency. And, the county-wide and regional partnerships we’ve established through the development of this plan will improve communication and foster cooperation on future activities.”

Along with the St. Charles County health department and Chick-Fil-A, assisting in this regional exercise are representatives from the St. Charles County Sheriff’s Department, the City of St. Peters, Crider Health Center, Barnes-Jewish St. Peters Hospital, the Orchard Farm Fire Protection District, the Lake Saint Louis Fire Protection District, the St. Charles County Ambulance District, the City of O’Fallon, Central County Fire Rescue, the Wentzville Fire Protection District and local health departments from throughout Missouri and Illinois.

This local exercise will illustrate a portion of the federally coordinated Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) program designed to deliver large and continuous quantities of medical resources in times of need. The SNS program is prepared for immediate deployment of life-saving medical products anywhere in the United States within a few hours of a declared emergency. Upon receiving these resources from state and national agencies, local public health departments would enact their plans to distribute supplies directly to all residents and visitors in the community.

The St. Charles County Department of Community Health and the Environment is committed to the protection and enhancement of health and the quality of life for all members of our community. To discover ways the department assists this region, please visit www.scchealth.org or call 636-949-7400.

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