

I was given medicine at the POD.
What kind of medicine is this?

If you were given medicine to take home, you were given an antibiotic or an antiviral. It will likely come as a pill. An antibiotic works by helping your body fight off bacteria that can make you sick. An antiviral works by helping your body fight a virus that could be making you sick. The medicine you may have been given is likely to be an antibiotic due to a bacteria and is either Ciprofloxacin or Doxycycline. Both of these medications are prescription antibiotics. During a public health emergency, you will be given these medications by a public health official and will not need a physician prescription during the emergency. It is advised that you speak with your healthcare provider before taking these medications to make sure you are not allergic or that any of your other medications will not cause a reaction with either of these antibiotics.

Who Should NOT take ciprofloxacin?

Do not take ciprofloxacin if you have had a severe reaction to ciprofloxacin or similar medicines known as quinolones. Avoid taking ciprofloxacin if you have a history of myasthenia gravis or are taking Zanaflex (tizanidine). Talk to your healthcare provider about other medication alternatives.

Who Should NOT take doxycycline?

Do not take doxycycline if you have had a severe allergic reaction to doxycycline or similar medicines known as tetracyclines. Talk to your healthcare provider about other medication alternatives

Risk-Benefit Statement - Although ciprofloxacin and doxycycline may have some potential and serious adverse events, the expected benefit of these medications to help prevent disease and death associated with severe disease exposure outweigh these risks. Please discuss these risks with your healthcare provider prior to coming to a POD.



PROTECTING OUR CITIZENS DURING PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES

What is a POD?

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What is Mass Dispensing and PODs?

Mass dispensing is when medicine is given to a lot of people at one time during a public health emergency to protect them from getting sick. In mass dispensing, you will be told to go somewhere near your home to pick up medicine. In some cases, you may be told to come by yourself; in other cases, you may be told to bring your family. You will be notified through social media, Hunterdon County websites, television, radio, or newspaper if and when you have to do this.

Mass dispensing sites are also called “points of distribution” or PODs. **Routine medical care is not provided at a POD.** The sole purpose of a POD is to quickly distribute preventive medication to large numbers of people during a public health emergency to prevent illness. In the event of a community disease outbreak or emergency, a POD site might be one tool used to fight the spread of disease. POD locations are usually larger facilities such as schools, community centers, senior centers and churches with ample parking.

What should I expect at a POD?

When you get to the POD, you will have to wait in line so you should wear comfortable clothes and shoes, and bring water and snacks. Please listen to the public health staff working there to learn what to do. If you are told to come by yourself, you must know your family’s medical information. Write down the information ahead of time so you have it ready.

You should know:

- **Allergies you or your family members have;**
- **Medicines you or your family members are taking;**
- **Serious illnesses you or your family members have; and,**
- **If you have children, their age and weight.**



Who might have to go to a POD during a public health emergency to receive medication?

Only individuals who have potentially been exposed to the disease causing the public health emergency will receive antibiotics or vaccine at a POD. PODs are designed to provide medication that will prevent someone from becoming sick with a disease, such as Anthrax.

Persons who are already sick with the disease will not be treated at a POD. Those who are already ill and require treatment will need to be seen at their physician’s office or at the hospital.

What will I get at a POD?

- Medicine (pills, shots, anti-virals) that you need based on the disease causing the public health emergency.
- Information on the medicine, like side effects and how to take it.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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