

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PATHWAY OVERVIEW



*“Prior to our partnership with Hamilton County Public Health, we were not prepared for public health emergencies – we did not have the knowledge or ability to offer mass prophylaxis or mass immunizations to our community. The benefits from our inter-agency partnership have gone beyond our Community POD Program – the lessons learned have also helped us improve our preparedness for other types of community emergencies.”*

*– Chief Douglas Witsken, Green Township Fire & EMS*

## Emergency Preparedness

Disasters can be both naturally occurring and man-made. Public health emergencies can fall under each of these categories. Response to a public health emergency often includes the distribution of medicine to the community. Hamilton County communities have a partnership with Hamilton County Public Health (HCPH) to respond to these public health emergencies by establishing Points of Dispensing (POD) sites that provide medication to residents where they live, work, and learn.

## The Need

POD plans were developed to provide guidance on the response in the event of a public health emergency. Routine review of the plan assures that the community’s response will be quick, and resources are accessible. To further enhance the community’s ability to respond to public health emergencies and other natural or man-made events, recruitment and training of community volunteers is necessary. Community and personal disaster preparedness consists of education, planning, training, and practice to develop skills and keep them sharp.

## Emergency Preparedness Pathway Goal

To improve the community’s capacity to respond in the event of a public health emergency.

## What Your Community Can Do

- **Adopt a Resolution**  
The Emergency Preparedness Resolution includes strategies to improve the community’s ability to respond in the event of an emergency. Adoption of the resolution solidifies the commitment to an aware, prepared, and volunteering community.
- **Sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**  
The signed MOU states that the community agrees to operate a Point of Dispensing (POD) during public health events/emergencies in partnership with HCPH.
- **Complete Emergency Preparedness Assessments**  
Assessment tools will be utilized to review and enhance community and personal preparedness.
- **Develop an Action Plan**  
Creating an action plan provides an opportunity to reduce the gaps found in the assessments and provide a blueprint on how to towards a whole community approach to emergency preparedness.

## Strategies to Improve Emergency Preparedness

- Review and exercise POD plans
- Train core staff to manage POD
- Recruit community volunteers
- Educate the community about individual preparedness



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