



Public Health
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Frederick County Health Department

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MAY 12, 2016

Local Agencies Test Public Health Emergency Plans in County Exercise

FREDERICK, MD -- The Frederick County Health Department and community partners exercised portions of the county's emergency medication mass distribution plan on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 and Wednesday, May 11, 2016.

A real-time scenario was presented with the intent to test and evaluate local policies, procedures and capabilities as they pertain to a biological agent release. The exercise scenario focused on the plans and procedures for distributing emergency medications in the event of a public health emergency.

The exercise began on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 with a practice notification to 25 exercise participants. Several agencies partnered with the Frederick County Health Department for this exercise including Citizens Care and Rehabilitation Center, City of Frederick, County Meadows of Frederick, Edenton Retirement Community, Fort Detrick, Frederick County Animal Control Division, Frederick County Citizens Services Division, Frederick County Courthouse, Frederick County Emergency Management Division, Frederick County Fire and Rescue Services Division, Frederick County Detention

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Center, Frederick County Meals on Wheels, Frederick County Parks & Recreation Division, Frederick County Sheriff's Office, Frederick County Government buildings Winchester Hall, 30 North Market Street and 118 North Market Street, Frederick Memorial Hospital, Frederick Police Department, Golden Living Center Frederick, Hood College, Maryland School for the Deaf, Mount Saint Mary's University, Northampton Manor, Odyssey Assisted Living at Montevue, St. Joseph's Ministries, as well as other government and private entities.

On Wednesday, May 11, 20 participating partners picked up sample medications from a central location. Several partners returned to their facilities and practiced dispensing emergency medications to their staff and families.

The Frederick County Health Department Division of Public Health Preparedness would like to thank all the partners involved in this exercise. Each partner played an integral part in this exercise, whether it was notification, picking up sample products or dispensing. The exercise demonstrated how various agencies and organizations can come together, implement emergency plans and push forward in the event of a real public health threat.

Please contact Rissah Watkins, Public Information Representative for Public Health Preparedness at the Frederick County Health Department, at 301-600-6005 or rwatkins@frederickcountymd.gov with questions about this exercise. Information about the Frederick County Health Department Public Health Preparedness program is available at <http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/php>.

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