



Public Health
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Frederick County Health Department

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Local Agencies Test Public Health Emergency Plans in Regional Exercise

FREDERICK, MD -- The Frederick County Health Department (FCHD) participated with local, state, regional and federal partners in Capital Fortitude, a National Capital Region (NCR) public health exercise on July 17, 2019. This three-day exercise was a full-scale regional exercise designed to evaluate how area governments would respond to a biological attack, including their ability to dispense medication quickly.

The purpose of this exercise was to test bio-detection and early warning systems as well as coordination and communications processes. As part of the exercise, FCHD worked with local partners to simulate medication dispensing sites, known as Points of Dispensing (PODs), to measure how quickly medication could be provided to the public in an emergency.

The FCHD Public Health Preparedness Program would like to thank the Frederick County Departments of Emergency Management, Fire and Rescue Services, Public Works, Frederick County Public Schools, Frederick County Sheriff's Office, Frederick Police Department, Frederick Regional Health System, and the National Cancer Institute at Fort Detrick. 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 Melissa Pawlus at 301-600-6052 or mpawlus@frederickcountymd.gov with questions about Frederick County's participation in this exercise. Information about the Frederick County Health Department Public Health Preparedness program is available at frederickcountymd.gov/php.

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