

BE PREPARED!
**10 QUICK FACTS ON EMERGENCY
MEDICATIONS
“POINTS OF DISTRIBUTION” (PODS)**

No one can predict the next public health emergency. Unfortunately, a natural disaster or act of terrorism could happen at any time. Therefore, we all need to be prepared to respond to emergencies at a moment's notice. Mercer County Division of Health is committed to educating our residents on steps you can take to prepare for an emergency. Please review this handout and speak to your healthcare provider at your next visit. There is no better time than now to prepare!

1. If a bioterrorist attack or a widespread disease outbreak should ever occur, local Health Departments in Mercer County will open temporary emergency “Points of Distribution” (PODS) in affected areas to provide emergency medication to protect against the threat.
2. **The medication provided will likely be the antibiotics ciprofloxacin and doxycycline.**
3. **Know if you and your family members are allergic to either ciprofloxacin or doxycycline.**
4. **Medication will be free.** No one will be billed or asked for insurance.
5. **Personal identification will NOT be required.** You do not have to be a resident of New Jersey or prove your immigration status, to receive medications at a POD.
6. **PODS will not treat sick people.** Sick people will be referred to a hospital or other healthcare facility if they are sick- not a POD.
7. PODs will only provide medication to prevent the disease occurring during the public health emergency. They will NOT give out other medications or provide medical care.
8. Designate someone from your household to pick up medications.
9. A form for you to complete to request medications for yourself and household members will be available at the POD or online. If you complete the form before coming to the POD, you will get through the POD faster.
10. Be prepared!
 - **Talk to your physician at your next visit about the medications you and your family members are taking, and any interactions between these medications and the antibiotics ciprofloxacin (Cipro) and Doxycycline (Doxy).**