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LESSON LEARNED

Points of Dispensing: Ensuring Site Security

SUMMARY

Points of dispensing (POD) security personnel should conduct security sweeps and should check the identification of anyone entering or exiting the POD's incident command post (ICP). This can help to ensure security for both staff members and clients.

DESCRIPTION

On October 17 – 18, 2007, the Oklahoma State Department of Health sponsored the Region 5 Mass Immunization and Prophylaxis Strategy full-scale exercise (FSE). The FSE simulated a potential influenza epidemic that involved 21,000 people manifesting influenza-like symptoms. The FSE included 464 state and local agency participants from 6 counties in the southeastern region of Oklahoma. The FSE tested participating agencies' ability to receive assets from the Strategic National Stockpile and to deliver mass prophylaxis to a community through the use of a newly approved POD site. County clinics administered 5,191 immunizations during the FSE, utilizing an area command for the first time in a public health exercise.

Security personnel at the Pittsburg County POD took adequate measures to ensure security inside the facility. However, minimal security outside the facility allowed unimpeded, unauthorized access to the POD. Similarly, an evaluator at the Bryan County POD did not observe the presence of any security personnel when the evaluator arrived at the site. Security personnel were present for the initial exercise brief; however, their late arrival did not comply with the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program's recommendation that security personnel arrive 2 hours before other personnel in order to conduct a security sweep. Further, security personnel did not monitor the ingress or egress of personnel in the POD's ICP. A security assistant was stationed at the entrance to the ICP but did not check the identification of anyone entering or leaving the ICP.

The FSE after-action report recommends that POD personnel conduct a security sweep to secure any unlocked doors prior to the start of POD operations. This will limit access to the POD site and will allow for the safe and secure establishment of operations. The FSE after-action report also recommends that security personnel control access to the ICP by checking the identification of all personnel entering and leaving.

POD security personnel should conduct security sweeps and should check the identification of anyone entering or exiting the POD's ICP. This can help to ensure security for both staff members and clients.

CITATION

Oklahoma State Department of Health. *Region 5 Mass Immunization Prophylaxis Strategy (MIPS) Full Scale Exercise 2007*. 26 Feb 2008.

<https://www.llis.dhs.gov/docdetails/details.do?contentID=32058>

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