



# A Simple and Effective Point of Distribution (POD) Functional Exercise

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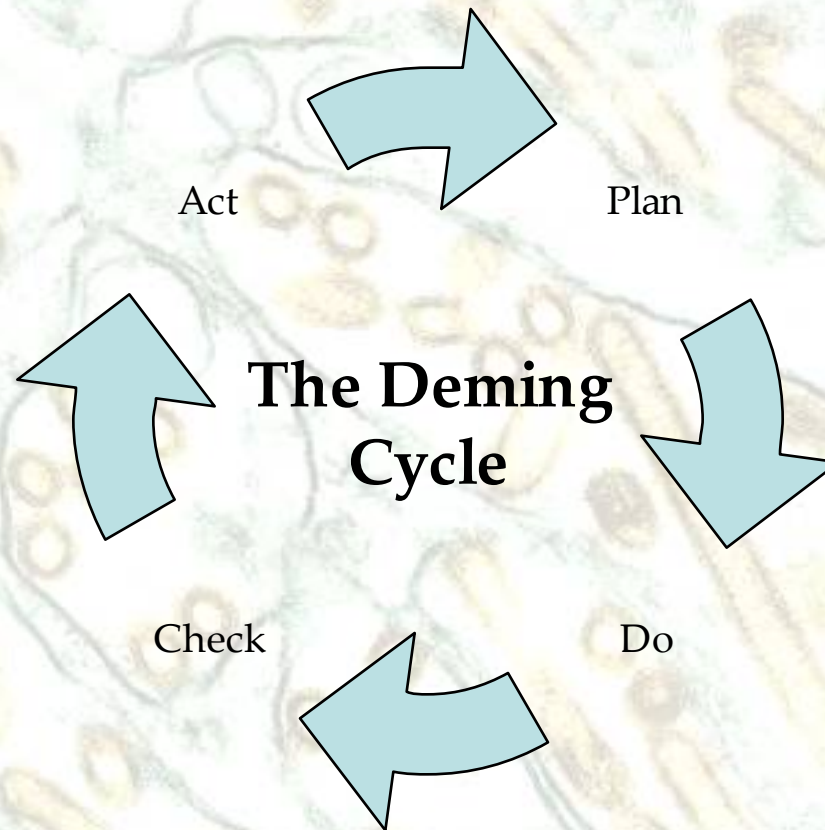
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# Learning Objectives

- To describe the structure and organization of a POD functional exercise.
- To define the exercise scenario and suggest variations.
- To define the evaluation process and procedures.



# Guiding Principle of the Exercise Structure and Design



# Exercise Design, Delivery, and Evaluation Process

- Develop consensus about the conceptual design of the exercise
- Establish purpose of the exercise
- Design scenarios and evaluation
- Test design and evaluation with walk-through with exercise team
- Develop pre-event briefing
- Set-up exercise site
- Conduct exercise and collect evaluation data
- Prepare After Action Report



# Purpose of the Exercise

- The objectives of this exercise are to:
  - Clarify roles and responsibilities of volunteers in a POD
  - Practice working together to respond to an emergency
  - Identify issues that need further clarification and amplification

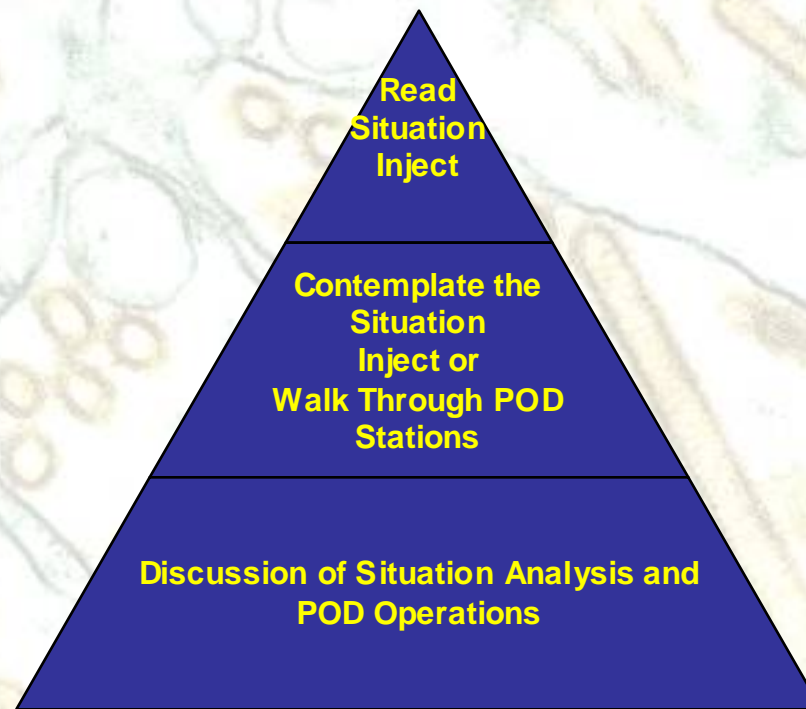
A microscopic image of plant tissue, likely a cross-section of a stem or root, showing various cellular structures. The tissue is stained with green and yellow dyes. The green staining highlights the cell walls and some internal structures, while the yellow staining highlights other cellular components, possibly chloroplasts or specific organelles. The overall appearance is that of a complex, organized biological structure.

# Agenda

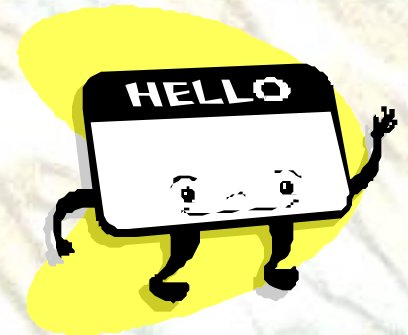
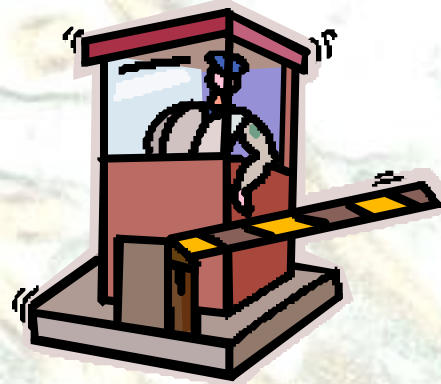
- **Introductions**
- **Exercise purpose**
- **Exercise format & procedures**
- **Preparatory remarks**
- **Conduct exercise**
- **Debriefing**



# Exercise Format & Procedures



# POD Jobs





# Internal POD Communication

- Communication flow should follow the chain of command
- Your communication role in POD operations will be described in your Job Action Sheet
- Plain talk – no codes or acronyms
- Communication equipment
  - Radio, cell phone, whistles, bull horn, walkie talkie
  - Clinic managers will ensure internal clinic communications are tested prior to opening
  - Make sure you know how to use any communication equipment assigned to you

# Why Plain Talk?

## Many meanings of EMT -

- Emergency Medical Treatment
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Emergency Management Team
- Eastern Mediterranean Time
- Effective Methods Team
- Effects Management Team
- El Monte, CA (airport code)
- Electron Microscope Tomography
- Email Money Transfer



# Dealing with POD Challenges

- If you need assistance, ask your supervisor
- General rules for dealing with
  - Special needs populations, e.g. limited mobility, hearing, vision, literacy, non-English speakers
  - Those experiencing extreme distress
  - Conflict

# When are PODs Activated?

- ANY large public health medical emergency where the mass distribution of antibiotics or administration of vaccinations are required
- Examples:
  - Bioterrorism event
  - Massive infectious disease outbreak such as pandemic influenza, small pox, etc.
- For today's exercise we are dealing with ...



A microscopic image of plant tissue, likely a cross-section of a stem or root, showing various cellular structures. The image is stained, with some cells appearing in shades of green and others in shades of brown or yellow. The text "Role-Play Table Top Exercise" is overlaid in a bold, green, serif font in the center of the image.

# Role-Play Table Top Exercise

# Scenario Inject #1

## June 3

- Localized outbreaks of H5N1 involving person-to-person spread occur in Indonesia, Vietnam & Southern China
- National news services are reporting more than 1,000 suspected cases of avian influenza across the country with 17 deaths
- On June 20, a local television station reports “breaking news” that a person with “what is possibly the first case of avian influenza in Mississippi” has been admitted to the North Mississippi Medical Center
- Local clinics are seeing a massive influx of patients complaining of flu-like symptoms



# RESPONSE...

*As a volunteer what actions should you take at this point?*

# Scenario Inject #2

## July 4

- Nearly all of Southeast Asia has been affected by H5N1
- By July 1, cases have been reported in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, and Washington, DC
- Ten days ago, a 47 year-old man was brought to the North Mississippi Medical Center emergency department (ED) by ambulance with fevers, chills, malaise, cough and shortness of breath. The patient, a Cambodian-American agri-businessman, recently traveled with his wife to Cambodia where he had visited several farms as well as Phnom Penh
- The Mississippi Department of Health confirms H5N1-strain as cause of illness in the Cambodian-American businessman
- Vaccine for H5N1 has been developed and is in production, a few thousand doses of the early-available vaccine have been allocated to Mississippi, the Governor directs “all essential” state and local personnel to be vaccinated



A microscopic image of plant tissue, likely a cross-section of a stem or root, showing various cellular structures. The image is in grayscale with some color highlights in yellow and green. It shows a network of cells, some with thick walls, and several elongated, yellowish structures that could be vascular bundles or specialized cells. The overall texture is complex and organic.

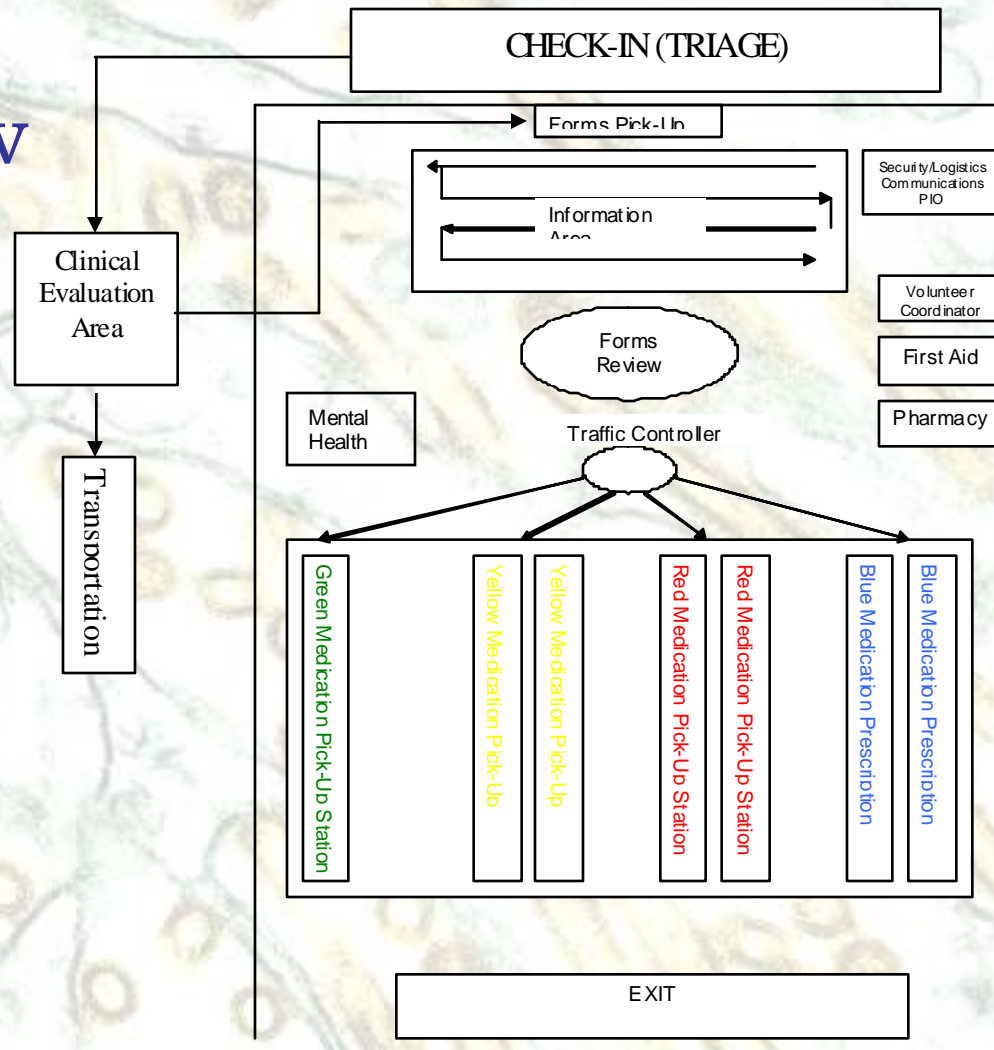
# RESPONSE...

*What are your responsibilities?*

*To whom do you report?*

*What actions do you take?*

# POD Clinic Flow





# Scenario Inject #3

## November 1

- Local morgue is nearing capacity, as 50% of confirmed H5N1 cases have resulted in death
- Non-essential offices have been closed
- Schools have been closed
- State has received a supply of the newly created H5N1 flu shot, essential personnel have been inoculated
- The Governor has declared a health emergency
- Mississippi Health Department directs the PODs to be fully operational on November 2 at 0600 hours to vaccinate the population in priority order with the H5N1 vaccine

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# Functional POD Exercise

Role Play and the first POD  
Experience

# TTX Role Play

- Participants are divided into groups indicative of the role they will likely serve in a POD
  - These roles correspond to the stations identified for the POD:
    - **Medical**: Triage, Clinical Evaluation, Dispensing, First Aid
    - **Pharmaceutical**: Pharmacy, Dispensing
    - **Mental Health**: Mental health and special needs
    - **Other, Non-medical**: Forms pick-up, information, Traffic control, dispensing, runners, etc.



# TTX Role Play - Continued

- Depending on the composition of the volunteers present, a functional POD is established and staffed with the volunteers for role play purposes
- While the complete POD is set out for the functional role play, POD staffing for role play is adjusted to fit and exercise the volunteers present
  - For example, if composition of volunteers is limited to social workers and other non-medical volunteers, then focus of the functional role play will be limited to non-medical/non-pharmaceutical stations.

# TTX Role Play - Continued

- Role playing of citizens arriving at the POD to receive prophylaxis:
  - Observers
  - Other non-volunteers
  - Rotation of volunteers
    - Allows volunteers to experience the POD process



A microscopic image of plant tissue, likely a cross-section of a stem or root, showing various cellular structures. The image is overlaid with green text. The text includes a title 'WRAP-UP' at the top, followed by three lines of text: 'Final comments?', '... concerns?', and '... suggestions?'. The background image shows elongated cells with thick walls and various internal structures, including what appears to be vascular tissue.

# WRAP-UP

*Final comments?*

*... concerns?*

*... suggestions?*

A microscopic image of plant tissue, likely a cross-section of a stem or root, showing various cellular structures. The tissue is stained, with prominent yellowish-brown spots and elongated structures, possibly indicating a specific biological process or condition. The background is a light, textured greenish-grey.

# End of Event