

ASPR TRACIE Technical Assistance Request

Request Receipt Date (by ASPR TRACIE): 18 June 2018

Response Date: 19 June 2018; updated 11 January 2024

Type of TA Request: Standard

Request:

The requestor asked if ASPR TRACIE had any resources related to drive-through Points of Dispensing (PODs) (e.g., checklists, diagrams, and policies).

Response:

The ASPR TRACIE Team reviewed existing ASPR TRACIE Topic Collections, namely the [Mass Distribution and Dispensing of Medical Countermeasures Topic Collection](#). We also conducted an online search for related materials. Resources gathered can be found in this document.

I. Drive-Through POD Resources

Asgary, A., Najafabadi, M., Wendel, S., et al. (2021). [Optimizing Planning and Design of COVID-19 Drive-Through Mass Vaccination Clinics by Simulation](#). Health and Technology. 11(6):1359-1368.

The authors used a simulation tool to assist with planning for a COVID-19 mass vaccination clinic at UHealth in Denver, Colorado. Simulations informed drive-through clinic design and operations, specifically by addressing bottlenecks, overflows, queueing, and numbers of support staff. It also aided in decisions about target numbers of vaccinations and processing times.

Gupta, A., Evans, G., and Heragu, S. (2013). [Simulation and Optimization Modeling for Drive-Through Mass Vaccination – A Generalized Approach](#). Simulation Modelling Practice and Theory. 37.

The authors describe the simulation modeling work completed for a mass vaccination drive-through clinic in 2009, where more than 19,000 patients were served (more than two-thirds via 10 drive-through lanes). Using this model can help public health emergency planners determine “the required number POD lanes, number and length of the lanes for consent hand outs and fill in, staff needed at the consent handout stations and PODs, and average user waiting time in the system.”

Holt Buck, B., Cowan, L., Smith, L., et al. (2021). [Effective Practices and Recommendations for Drive-Through Clinic Points of Dispensing: A Systematic Review](#). (Abstract only.) Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness. 15(3):374-388.

The authors reviewed literature on drive-through clinics (DTCs) as a novel type of POD and highlighted the following themes for effective practices and recommendations that

emerged: “(1) optimal DTC design and planning via decision support systems and decision support tools; (2) clinic layouts, locations, and design aspects; (3) staffing, training, and DTC communication; (4) throughput time; (5) community outreach methods; (6) DTC equipment; (7) infection prevention and personal protective equipment; and (8) adverse events prevention and traffic management.”

Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition. (n.d.). [Drive-Through Dispensing Planning Considerations](#). (Accessed 1/11/2024.)

This document describes many facets of setting up and coordinating a drive-through POD. It includes sections on drive-through POD concept of operations, site selection, traffic and safety, communications, equipment required, staffing considerations, infection control, and signage for the site. Descriptions of roles and checklists provided in the document can be tailored by health care coalitions planning for drive-through PODs.

National Association of County and City Health Officials. (2020). [Drive-Thru Point of Dispensing Planning Guide](#).

This guide focuses on planning for Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) responses in urban or suburban areas that have challenges meeting 100 percent prophylaxis coverage of their population within limited time frames using traditional indoor PODs.

New Mexico Department of Health. (2017). [Point of Dispensing \(POD\) Operations Guide](#).

This plan includes operational considerations related to PODs and may be referenced and/or adapted by other jurisdictions in the development of their respective countermeasure dispensing plans. **NOTE:** Page 26 includes a diagram of a drive-through POD model.

II. Additional Related Resources

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. (2020). [16 Key Considerations for Drive-Through or Mobile Testing](#).

This blog post lists 16 key considerations for those considering the implementation of drive-through or mobile testing for COVID-19. It also includes examples from states that have established such programs.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020). [Considerations for Planning Curbside/Drive-Through Vaccination Clinics](#). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

This resource page provides information for those planning curbside or drive-through vaccination clinics. It offers steps for planning the clinic and what to do before, during, and after the vaccination encounter. It also includes links to additional resources.

A list of comprehensively developed ASPR TRACIE Topic Collections can be found here:
<https://asprtracie.hhs.gov/technical-resources/topic-collection>.