



Public Health

Idaho North Central District

Nez Perce County
215 10th Street
Lewiston, ID 83501
(208) 799-3100
Fax (208) 799-0349

Latah County
333 E Palouse River Drive
Moscow, ID 83843
(208) 882-7506
Fax (208) 882-3494

Clearwater County
105 115th Street
Orofino, ID 83544
(208) 476-7850
Fax (208) 476-7494

Idaho County
903 West Main
Grangeville, ID 83530
(208) 983-2842
Fax (208) 983-2845

Lewis County
132 N Hill Street
P O Box 277
Kamiah, ID 83536
(208) 935-2124
Fax (208) 935-0223

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Tara Biesecker

PHONE: (208) 799-3100

DATE: April 24, 2013

HEADLINE: Public Health Needs Volunteers

LEWISTON, IDAHO – Public Health – Idaho North Central District (PH-INCD) is part of the Statewide Medical Countermeasure Full-Scale Exercise to test its plans and ability to order and dispense pharmaceutical supplies during a Public Health Emergency in north central Idaho.

The statewide exercise will present Idaho's seven health districts and the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare with a fictitious emergency scenario, such as an anthrax attack. PH-INCD will assess the situation, simulate an order of pharmaceutical supplies from the federal Strategic National Stockpile, open a mass dispensing center at the Nez Perce County Fairgrounds and dispense those "pharmaceutical supplies" to community volunteers. The exercise is a simulation of how Public Health will act in a real bioterrorism event.

In a real public health emergency, Public Health is responsible for providing those pharmaceutical supplies to everyone who needs them, which could be every man, woman, and child in north central Idaho. This would require Public Health to operate mass dispensing centers in all five counties.

For this exercise, PH-INCD will operate one center in Lewiston at the Nez Perce County Fairgrounds. Health district staff will practice triage, registration, checking forms, moving people through the center, medical evaluation, dispensing "pharmaceutical supplies" and managing the mass dispensing center. These types of drills help Public Health evaluate the efficiency and logistical challenges that could occur during a real public health emergency.

Community volunteers are still needed to act as patients at the fairgrounds from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on May 1. Volunteers will receive a free lunch. To volunteer, email php@phd2.idaho.gov.

Public Health would also like to remind you that preparedness is a shared responsibility; it takes a whole community. For further information or to become a part of your community's preparedness efforts, please visit www.idahopublichealth.com or contact Public Health – Idaho North Central District at 208-799-3100.