



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Frederick County Health Department

News Release

CONTACT: Rissah Watkins
Public Information Representative
301-600-6005
TTY: Use Maryland Relay
rwatkins@frederickcountymd.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SEPTEMBER 27, 2013

LOCAL AGENCIES TEST PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PLANS IN STATEWIDE EXERCISE

During National Preparedness Month

FREDERICK, MD -- The Frederick County Health Department participated with Frederick Memorial Hospital and Fort Detrick in a large-scale, statewide Strategic National Stockpile Distribution Exercise this week to evaluate preparedness for potential public health emergencies. The exercise was organized by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's (DHMH) Office of Preparedness and Response.

The purpose of this exercise, conducted September 23 through 25, was to test the process for requesting, delivering and receiving medical supplies in the event of a public health emergency. These supplies are part of the Strategic National Stockpile, a national repository of medication, medical equipment and items that can be used to supplement local stockpiles in the event of emergencies such as disease outbreaks or bioterrorism events.

The exercise brought together nearly 100 participating groups, including local health departments, hospitals, law enforcement, state agencies and facilities, and federal agencies.

--more--

Barbara A. Brookmyer, M.D., M.P.H. ▪ Health Officer

350 Montevue Lane ▪ Frederick, MD 21702

Phone: 301-600-1029 ▪ Fax: 301-600-3111 ▪ MD TTY: 1-800-735-2258





Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Frederick County Health Department

Statewide Exercise/Page 2

"This exercise was conducted with our partners throughout the state to enhance our response efforts to protect public health during emergency situations," says Dr. Laura Herrera, Deputy Secretary of Public Health Services, who played the role of the DHMH Secretary during the exercise.

The Frederick County Health Department Division of Public Health Preparedness would like to thank our local partners for their participation. The exercise demonstrated how various agencies and organizations can come together, implement emergency plans and push forward in the event of a real public health threat.

Please contact Rissah Watkins at 301-600-6005 or rwatkins@frederickcountymd.gov with questions about Frederick County's participation in this exercise. Information about the Frederick County Health Department Public Health Preparedness program is available at <http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/php>. For more information about the DHMH Office of Preparedness and Response, visit <http://preparedness.dhmf.maryland.gov>

###