



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BIOLOGICAL DRILL TO TAKE PLACE JULY 28

County to Test Readiness to Dispense Medication in Event of an Anthrax Attack

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), Public Health Services, in cooperation with the local healthcare community, will conduct a Bioterrorism exercise from 9 a.m. – noon on Friday, July 28 at Helix High School, La Mesa.

The exercise will feature a Point of Dispensing (POD) site in the high school gymnasium. The simulated site will include many volunteers portraying members of the public, as well as volunteers with the Medical Reserve Corps. The volunteer members of the public will receive simulated medications that they need to counteract exposure to a biological agent.

This event is designed to help the County and the healthcare community test their emergency preparedness and response to a biological incident. The purpose of the exercise is to evaluate current capabilities and identify areas of improvement in providing preventative medication to a large number of people quickly. The drill will also increase cooperation and teamwork among the agencies that would be expected to respond to such an event.

Media check-in will take place at 9 a.m. Helix High School is located at 7323 University Ave., La Mesa.

The drill is funded by a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) grant.

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Visuals: Volunteers receiving "medication." Members of the media are asked to stay within the media observation area. Individual walk-throughs of the site will be provided.