

The logo of the Village of Hoffman Estates is visible in the background of the top section. It features a circular seal with the text "VILLAGE OF HOFFMAN ESTATES" around the perimeter and a large letter "H" in the center, surrounded by a laurel wreath. The year "1955" is also visible at the bottom of the seal.

# Hoffman Estates

# Press Release

## Hoffman Estates, county hold large-scale disaster drill

The Village of Hoffman Estates and the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) will be coordinating an emergency preparedness drill on May 13 at the Sears Centre Arena in Hoffman Estates. The goal of this drill is to ensure readiness to respond to a large disease outbreak or bioterrorism event. The Arena will serve as a point-of-dispensing (POD) clinic as thousands of volunteers walk through to receive medication. The participants will assume the roles of potentially sick residents needing antibiotic therapy after a bioterrorism attack exposes the community to the fictitious “Spring Fever Disease.”

Planning for exercises such as this one involves dozens of response agencies from all over the northwest suburban area. This drill will include 25 other municipalities, volunteers from various Citizen Corps programs and participants from multiple Cook County agencies as well as local fire, law enforcement, public works, and staff from municipal health and human services departments.

This scenario will call upon the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), a cache of pharmaceuticals that would be delivered to the region via state and local agencies after an intentional attack.

One of the goals of the May 13 exercise is to assess “throughput,” the time it takes people to move through the screening process and receive their medication. Some volunteers will be wearing microchip devices – similar to what marathon runners use – that will give planners an accurate measure of current processes and allow for further streamlining. In a large outbreak situation, the timeframe for distributing vaccines and/or antibiotics will be very short.

Planners are expecting up to 3,000 volunteers from the surrounding community to walk through the Arena between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Many volunteers will be given scripted roles that will replicate how people might react during a mass dispensing event.

This exercise is funded primarily by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security through the Urban Areas Security Initiative. The Sears Centre Arena is located at 5333 Prairie Stone Parkway in Hoffman Estates.

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