

Approved by Dr. Fukino



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
Phone: (808) 586-4410
Fax: (808) 586-4444

For Immediate Release: April 8, 2005

05-27

KAUAI EXERCISES NATION'S FIRST DRIVE-THRU MEDICATION CLINIC
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO TEST RESPONSE

LIHUE, HAWAII – Volunteers are needed to help the Hawaii State Department of Health Kauai District Health Office exercise its bioterrorism preparedness drive-thru clinic at Vidinha Stadium, Lihue, on Thursday, April 14, 2005 from 10 a.m. to noon. The mock clinic will test Kauai's plan to distribute medicines and supplies from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) in response to a bioterrorism emergency. The exercise, called BTEX Kauai 2005 E Ho'omakaukau No Ka Maluhia (Kauai Prepares for Safety), is the first all drive-thru SNS clinic model in the U.S.

"Our goal is to simulate how the Health Department would respond if there was a true emergency on Kauai," says Dr. David Lane, Bioterrorism Preparedness Planner at the Kauai District Health Office. "Everything will be simulated as if it was a real clinic," says Lane. "We are asking for 600 volunteers to drive through the clinic, fill out forms, get evaluated for medicines, and receive the fake medicine to test our procedures." In response for their participation, the first 600 volunteers will receive a \$5 voucher good at Kmart, Kukui Grove, Star Market, Foodland, or Ishihara Market.

BTEX Kauai 2005 clinic volunteers will never have to leave their car as DOH staff will be ushering them through the mock medication clinic. Clinic Incident Commander, Toni Torres, PHN said, "We have worked hard to train over 60 Department of Health employees to work in the clinic. Now we need the public to help us by driving through the clinic on April 14th."

(more)

The Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) is a program of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia. The SNS is a cache of medicines and medical supplies stored in 13 secret locations around the country available for distribution in the event of a bioterrorism attack or other health emergency. The SNS will be delivered to any state that needs it within 12 hours of an approved request. The Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) is required by CDC and the Department of Homeland Security to develop and exercise plans to receive and distribute the SNS in an event of a public health emergency.

The DOH is working with Kauai Civil Defense, Kauai Police and Fire departments, local hospitals, Kauai County Branch of the American Red Cross, the Kauai CERT Team, the Transportation Security Administration, the Lihue Airport Fire Station, State Civil Defense, and the Department of Transportation to carry out BTEX Kauai 2005.

The exercise will be reviewed by outside evaluators including experts from Alaska, Arizona, and New York. Results will help to revise plans as necessary. "Our continuing goal is to improve our island's capability to prevent and respond to a bioterrorism event. BTEX Kauai 2005 gives us the opportunity to show the public what we're doing to prepare and how we plan to keep Kauaians safe," says Lane.

Volunteers interested in receiving the \$5 voucher should simply drive to Vidinha Stadium, entering from Kapule Highway on April 14th between 10 a.m. and noon. For more information, contact Jason McKnight at (808) 241-3555 at the Kauai District Health Office.

###

For more information contact:
Jason McKnight
Health Education Specialist
Hawaii State Department of Health, Kauai District Health Office
Phone: (808) 645-0514
Email: jmcknight@mail.health.state.hi.us

Darcie Yukimura
Public Information Specialist
Hawaii State Department of Health
Phone: (808) 586-4402
Email: dayukimura@mail.health.state.hi.us