

Oregon Pharmacy-Public Health Memorandum of Understanding Toolkit for Public Health Emergency Preparedness Liaisons and Coordinators

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What role can pharmacies play in a public health emergency or disaster?

- Pharmacies can distribute and dispense vaccine during communicable disease outbreaks
- They can dispense antibiotics for treatment or prevention of illness during outbreaks
- They can assess and meet needs for medication among those displaced by storms or other incidents, and
- Pharmacies can expand healthcare capacity in a public health emergency by managing therapy or specific conditions under a state-issued treatment protocol (ORS 431A.015)

2. What is the purpose of the Oregon Pharmacy-Public Health MOU?

The MOU is an omnibus agreement that provides a framework for timely, effective pharmacy response to public health incidents in Oregon.

3. Who signs the MOU? Do local public health authorities (LPHAs) need to sign? What about tribal partners?

Although the *Oregon Pharmacy-Public Health MOU* is a statewide MOU, it is valuable for local public health and tribal partners to become signatories. Tribal health departments and clinics might also benefit from being signatories. Both independent pharmacies and pharmacy chains can sign as well.

4. Who has already signed the MOU? Where can I find a list of signatories?

Many pharmacies and local public health authorities across Oregon have already signed the *Pharmacy-Public Health MOU*. For the most up-to-date list of signatories, visit <http://public.health.oregon.gov/Preparedness/Partners/Documents/Signatories.pdf>

5. I work in local public health, and I am interested in my county signing the MOU. What should I do?

Contact your local PHEP Coordinator. If you are a PHEP Coordinator, contact the state PHEP liaison assigned to your region for help in starting the signing process. For a list of liaisons by region, visit <https://public.health.oregon.gov/PHD/Directory/Pages/program.aspx?pid=77> and click on *Staff and then Public Health Liaisons*. Different counties have different processes for approval. Work with your Public Health Administrator to determine the best approach for your county.

6. Who can activate the MOU?

The MOU can be activated by a signatory local public health authority (LPHA), tribe, or pharmacy who have come to agreement on specific activities that the pharmacy will undertake in response to a public health incident. The MOU can also be activated by Oregon Public Health Division, in consultation with LPHAs or tribal partners and pharmacies.

7. I am a local PHEP Coordinator, and I want to recruit local pharmacies in my county. How do I obtain a list of pharmacies?

Contact the Oregon Board of Pharmacy at 971-673-0009 to request a current list of pharmacies located in your county.

8. I've recruited a local independent pharmacy, and they have signed the MOU. Now what?

Send a copy of the signed MOU to your state PHEP liaison. The Oregon Public Health Division, in conjunction with the Board of Pharmacy, maintains a record of all signatories across the state. Refer to the *Oregon Guidance for Collaborative Pharmacy-Local Response to Public Health Incidents* for detailed information about activation and operations: <https://public.health.oregon.gov/Preparedness/Partners/Documents/OREGONPharmacyLPHAOperationalGuidance.pdf>.

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9. Can hospitals sign the MOU?

Yes! We already have some Oregon hospitals as signatories. For the most current list of signatories, visit <https://public.health.oregon.gov/Preparedness/Partners/Pages/PharmacyMOU.aspx>.

10. Where can I find a copy of Oregon Pharmacy-Public Health MOU?

Visit <https://public.health.oregon.gov/Preparedness/Partners/Pages/PharmacyMOU.aspx>. A copy of the MOU is located under the title *MOU and Related Documents* on the webpage.

11. How would I contact signatory pharmacies if I need to activate the MOU?

If desired, signatory pharmacies, LPHAs, and tribes can share contact information to expedite MOU-related communications. Otherwise, you can relay messages to signatory pharmacies through the Board of Pharmacy. Point of contact for activities under the MOU for the Oregon Board of Pharmacy will be the Compliance Officer (971-673-0001).