

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Public health emergency exercise to be conducted Friday

(Lawrence, KS) – Immunizing large numbers of people during a public health emergency is critical. The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department will test that ability from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Friday, March 27 with a mass dispensing exercise at Free State High School, 4700 Overland Drive in Lawrence.

Health Department staff, Douglas County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and other volunteers will staff the clinic and act as community members that need to be “vaccinated.” Other volunteers are needed to act as members of the public in need of “vaccination.” Those interested in participating should contact Kim Ens, Disease Control Program Coordinator at (785) 843-3060.

The exercise is part of March Health Madness, a weeklong series of events organized by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Health Department staff are participating in smaller exercises throughout the week including a mass casualty tabletop scenario and a Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) request.

Testing preparedness is a key part of being able to respond actively and efficiently in a public health emergency. Lessons learned from the exercise will assist the Health Department in refining its preparedness plans.

“As agencies continue to work and plan together, we are better prepared to keep our community safe,” Ens said.

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Note to Editor/Reporter: Media interested in covering this event are asked to come to the east entrance of the large gym at Free State High School between 9 and 10:30 a.m. and ask for Lisa Horn, Health Department Communications Coordinator. Parking will be limited.