

**NEWS RELEASE**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Health Department prepares for mass dispensing exercise**

**(Lawrence, KS)** – Distributing large amounts of medicine during a public health emergency is critical. The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department will test that ability from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. May 7 with a special mass dispensing exercise at the Douglas County Fairgrounds, 2110 Harper St.

The exercise scenario assumes that a recent act of terrorism had exposed the Lawrence and Douglas County area to anthrax. Providing medication to first responders before points of dispensing (PODs) open to the public will be the focus of the drill.

“In the event of a public health emergency, first responders would receive their medication first so they could continue to serve the public,” said Kim Ens, Disease Control Program Coordinator at the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department. “By receiving medication and knowing that they and their families are safe, first responders can continue with their jobs.”

Health Department staff, Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers will staff the clinic and also act as first responders in need of antibiotics. Lawrence-Douglas County Fire & Medical and Douglas County Public Works also have agreed to send on-duty employees to go through the clinic and receive “antibiotics” that day.

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**Note to Editor/Reporter:** Media interested in covering this event are asked to come to the Douglas County Fairgrounds’ building 21 between 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and ask for Lisa Horn, Health Department Communications Coordinator.