



Beth Or as a Closed POD Site for Montgomery County

About 2 years ago, Beth Or initiated discussions with the Montgomery County Office of Public Health regarding Beth Or becoming a Point of Distribution (POD) to dispense medications to our congregants and employees in case of a medical emergency. Our plan was approved just before the coronavirus epidemic started. Since our facility will serve only congregants and employees, we are designated as a 'Closed POD' as opposed to one that serves the entire population. The advantage to our members is that they will have access to the medications easier than someone in the general population may have. If a medical emergency is declared and medication is available to combat the disease, our congregants and employees would be instructed how to receive the medications at Beth Or.

In order to operate the Closed POD, we will need both medical and non-medical volunteers to staff it for 1-3 days on 6-12 hour shifts. We have a number of medical professionals who have indicated their willingness to be part of the POD team assuming that their other medical responsibilities do not supersede Beth Or's needs. A medical professional is someone who is trained as either a physician, nurse, nurse practitioner, physician's assistant or pharmacist; either an active or retired person in any of these positions would qualify. We also need volunteers over the age of 18 who are not medical professionals. These volunteers would serve in any one of several job stations including handing out forms, instructing in how to complete the forms and reviewing them, directing traffic in the parking lot, acting as 'runners', etc. We realize that all volunteers may not be available when the closed POD is activated. For that reason, we want more volunteers than may be needed during an emergency.

We are seeking 5-7 more medical professional volunteers and 50-60 non-medical volunteers. Once you have volunteered, you will receive training in your responsibilities, be part of a communication system that will be activated when an emergency occurs and will participate in annual drills. If you would like to volunteer, please send your name, email address and telephone number(s) to Alan Kober at sportyalan@comcast.net. Thank you for considering this opportunity to help in times of a medical crisis, especially in light of the current environment. The Torah teaches that we are our brother's keepers and your service to your fellow congregants is one way of following that principle.