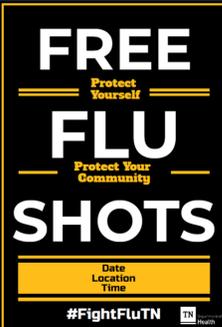


Tennessee's Statewide 95 County Simultaneous Flu Point of Dispensing or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Lots of Medical Model PODs.

Sean Kice, MS, Paul Petersen, PharmD,
Nhut Nguyen, MPH, Jennifer N. Johnson, MPA
Tennessee Department of Health



Introduction

Creating a culture of flu preparedness, in the event of a pandemic, starts with us setting expectations for the public. This flu season, the Emergency Preparedness Program took the lead to plan and implement a statewide effort for all county health departments to conduct free flu vaccination Point of Dispensing (POD) clinics for the general public during the National Influenza Vaccine Week Dec. 2-8, 2018.

A coordinated mass vaccination operation took place on December 5th; all **95** counties in Tennessee opened at least one medical model flu POD on the same day to offer free flu shots. These varied from drive through PODs in parking lots, first responder PODs in fire department garages, to ad hoc clinic locations in conference centers and grocery stores; local counties were allowed to choose the best dispensing modality for the use of vaccine and populations they serve.

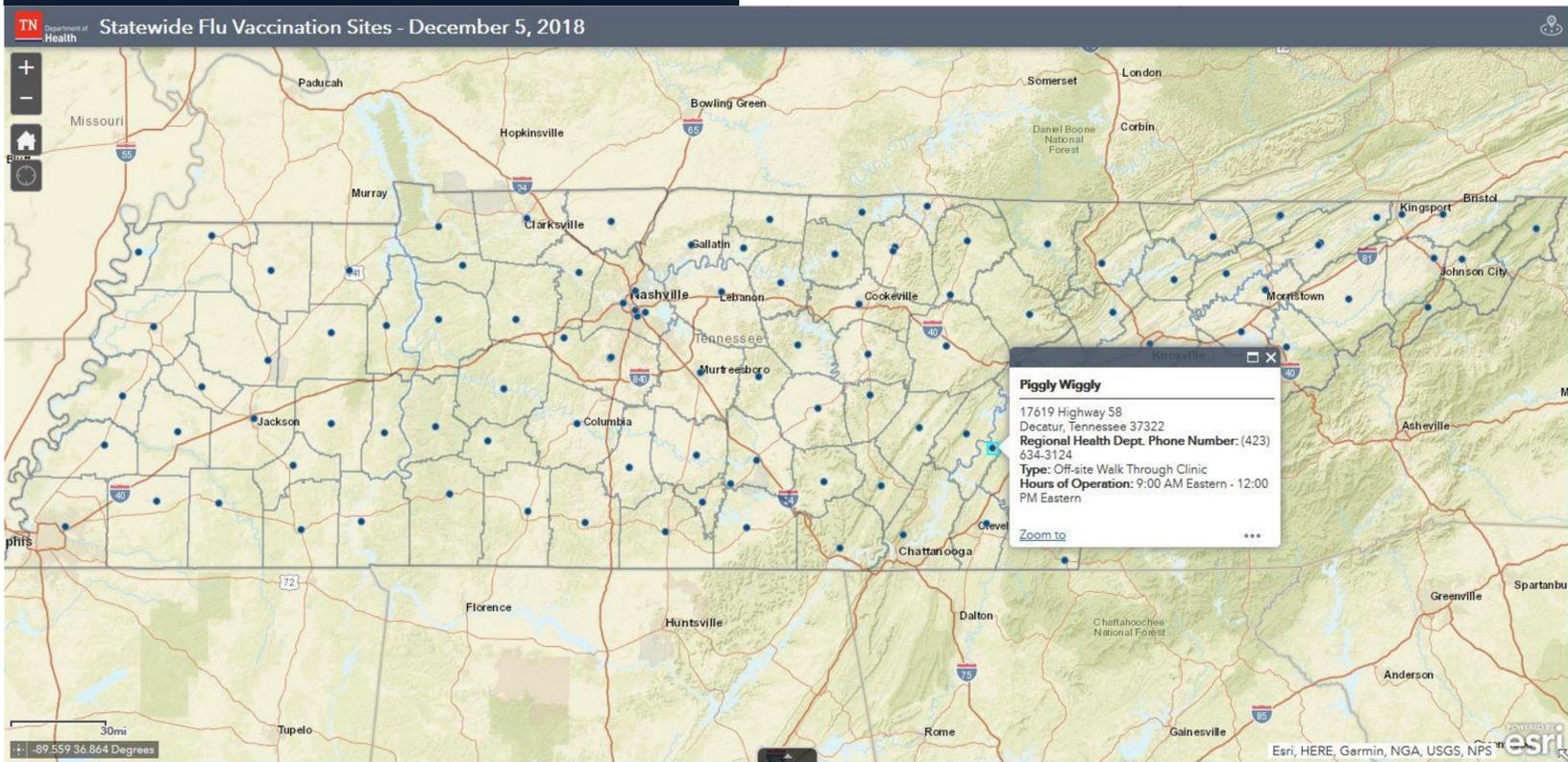
Preparation

Buy-in from leadership was found, funding was secured, guidelines produced, new styles of PODs planned for, coordination between divisions was organized, and, most importantly, acceptance from locals who were skeptical from previous endeavors was acquired. This cohesion allowed **95** different local governments to work with the state government to produce a unified event uniquely tailored to local needs across the state on the same day.

Public Messaging

The county, region, and state are each layers of public information that were melded to produce a single message which also allowed for local flexibility to target specific populations. The state produced a media toolkit that established acceptable guidelines on how and what can be released. In addition, the toolkit allowed local public health to target their messages specifically to the audiences their PODs served, allowing the regional level to act as the conduit to ensure all messages are appropriate and consistent.

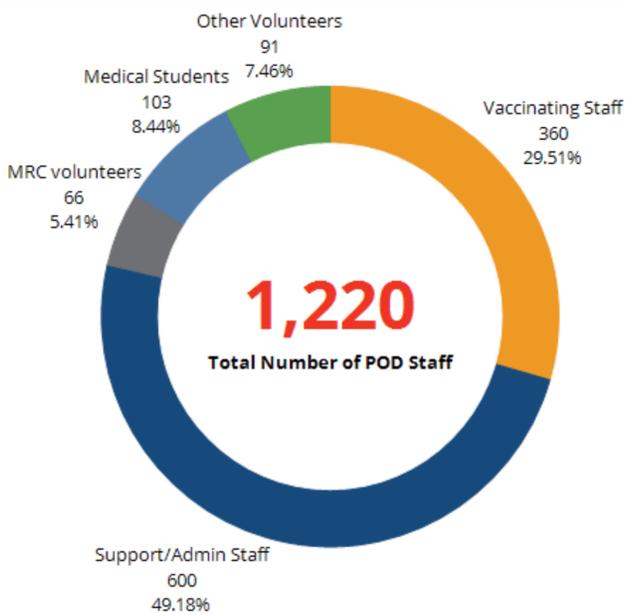
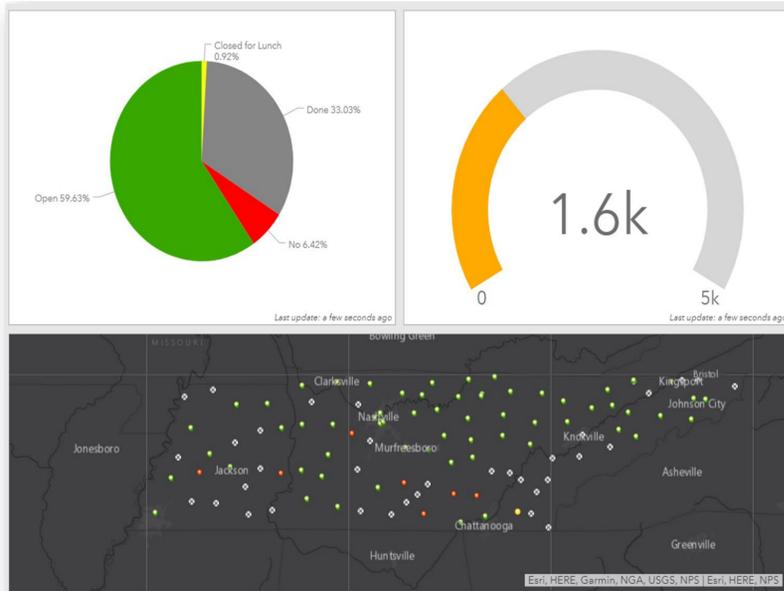
Public POD Locator



Results

- **14** Emergency Operations Centers activated
- **115** PODs opened
 - **2** Closed PODs
 - **8** Drive through PODs
 - **21** Off site PODs
 - **84** On site PODs
 - **33** Average site activation time (in minutes)
 - **20** Average demobilization time (in minutes)
- **129** New plans created
- **570** Hours of active medical model POD operation
- **4,517** Individuals vaccinated

Real Time POD Status



Conclusions & Learning

Successes:

- TDH served members of the public who otherwise would not have had access to this year's seasonal flu vaccine.
- New tools were created that can be utilized in the future.
- Due to positive public and staff feedback, this event will be repeated for the 2019 flu season.

Challenges:

- Anti-vaxxers posting on social media.
- Removal of large numbers of staff from regular duties.
- Choosing the best date to implement the event.

Contact

Sean Kice, MS
Tennessee Department of Health
sean.j.kice@tn.gov@tn.gov
www.tn.gov/health
615-532-7561

