

It was all about the pandemic drill at the Dome Arena Tuesday, March 27 and the need for volunteers to test the best way to inoculate people in the event of a deadly influenza situation. I'm a volunteer. This is how it went --

11:23 a.m. - Picked up an information sheet on inactivated influenza vaccine at the table near the entrance to Minett Hall.

11:25 - Took a picture of the line of volunteers.

11:28 - Got in line in Minett Hall; there are about 60 people ahead of me. I can see two large-screen TVs displaying something about an influenza situation.

11:34 - The line is moving, but in fits and spurts. I'm reading about inactivated influenza vaccine in a handout. Sounds serious. Talked to Carolyn Mekker, a pregnant lady who is due April 14. Took her picture. Hey, if she can patiently wait in line so can I.

11:40 - I've just left Minett Hall and am in the corridor leading to the Dome Arena. People are chatting and having no problems with the line movement, which seems to have picked up.

11:45 - I'm near the entrance to the Dome and can see a table where I can pick up a patient form. Jeanne Sloan hands me a form and, after seeing my camera, asks if she should smile. I said: "I'll be back." (I did)

11:47 Proceeded to table number nine to sit with fellow volunteers and fill out the personal and medical history form. It was fairly simple but I forgot to fill in the dots which put the data into computer form; a "senior moment" which was quickly rectified by a friendly county representative.

11:56 - Finished the questionnaire and got in line to get my "inoculation."

11:59 - Wanda Parker asked me: "Which arm do you want the inoculation in?" I responded: "The left arm." She then picked up a syringe and a cup with an orange in it and injected the needle into the orange.

12 noon - picked up my evaluation form and filled it out. I thought everything was done well with pleasant, helpful assistance and could only add that a line on the floor might be an easier way to direct people on how the flow should go.

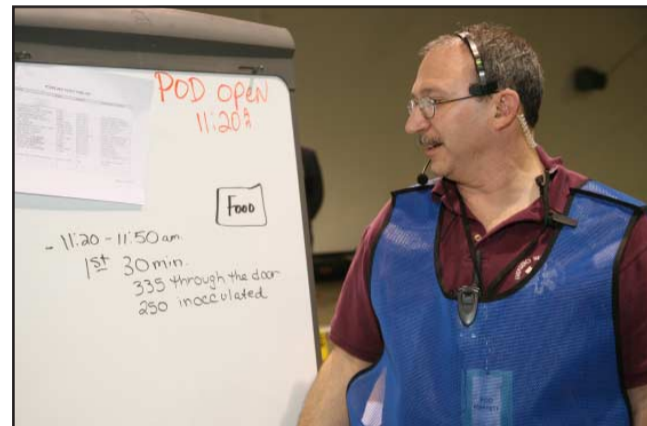


Jeanne Sloan hands out a patient form while John Hall stamps the next form.

12:05 - I'm done. There was a suggestion that we were welcome to go back through the line again, which a number of people did; I passed.

Photographs and text by **Walt Horylev**

At right -- POD manager and Spencerport resident **Jeff Tewksbury** checks out the latest data on the number of volunteers entered and "inoculated" in the first 30 minutes. He planned to have a formal review of the process two days later.



Wanda Parker injects an orange, a substitute for "my left arm," simulating the time taken for the injection procedure at a drill March 27 at the Dome Arena. Volunteers filled out patient forms then proceeded through the inoculation area and provided feedback forms to collectors to assess the exercise.

PODs are point-of-dispensing clinics and were established countywide under a Civil Preparedness Initiative announced by Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks on March 22. Under this initiative, every supervisor and mayor in the county agreed to identify and help operate a POD in the event of a large-scale public health emergency. For instance, in Hilton and Spencerport this activity would be conducted at the respective high schools.

Brooks had said that federal health officials tasked us with the need to dispense medications to our entire county population in as little as 48 hours; that translates into 40 PODs serving 400-500 persons per hour. That rate appeared to have been reached in the Dome Arena at the exercise March 27.

Additional drills at the city, town or village level will occur in the future.



At right, **Sister Phyllis Tierney**, SSJ, strides towards the form collection table to turn in her appraisal of the POD (Point of Dispensing) process. The Vaccine Information table in Minett Hall provided information about the medicine being "administered" along with other "need to know" insight into the disease for which the medicine was being provided. John Ricci, Monroe County Health Department spokesman, stated that the aim during this exercise was to process around 500 persons per hour.