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# Town enters regional plan for emergency vaccinations

**BY STEVE SMITH Staff Writer**  
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The Vernon Town Council entered into a memorandum of understanding regarding a vaccination distribution plan .

The plan , according to North Central Connecticut Health Director William Blitz , would facilitate the timely distribution of any type of vaccination needed for any reason , including an outbreak of a virus like H 1 N 1 , or after a natural or manmade disaster .

Towns in the coverage area also include Enfield , Ellington , Windsor Locks , Stafford , Suffield and Windham .

The amendment made by Blitz to the Vernon portion of the resolution was to include Vernon Director of Civil Preparedness Michael Purcaro , since , as Blitz explained , “ it has to be a cooperative decision . ”

Among many elements , the plan includes the identification of clinic sites , training of clinic personnel , and the arrangement for funding and implementing the action plan , as needed .

Councilman Michael Winkler asked if a hypothetical nuclear power plant meltdown , requiring anti-radiation medicines such as iodide to be distributed to residents , would be an example of how the plan would be implemented .

Blitz said that is an example of how the memorandum would take effect , but added that since Vernon is not very close to such a facility , it would likely serve as a point of refuge for evacuees .

When asked about whether the plan would require future expenditures from the town , Blitz said the likelihood is that the plan would come in a time of emergency , and funding would come from the state or federal government , but the towns would likely have to share the up-front costs in the event action needed to be taken quickly , and then be reimbursed by the state or fed .

“ If some disaster happens , ” Blitz said , “ usually the federal government is billed for it . ”