



Special
Edition!

Preparedness and Resilience Bulletin: Empowering People and Communities



COVID-19

THE PRESIDENT'S **CORONAVIRUS GUIDELINES** FOR AMERICA

30 DAYS TO SLOW THE SPREAD

Listen to and follow the directions of your **STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES**.

IF YOU FEEL SICK, stay home. Do not go to work. Contact your medical provider.

IF YOUR CHILDREN ARE SICK, keep them at home. Do not send them to school. Contact your medical provider.

IF SOMEONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAS TESTED POSITIVE for the coronavirus, keep the entire household at home. Do not go to work. Do not go to school. Contact your medical provider.

IF YOU ARE AN OLDER PERSON, stay home and away from other people.

IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A SERIOUS UNDERLYING HEALTH CONDITION that can put you at increased risk (for example, a condition that impairs your lung or heart function or weakens your immune system), stay home and away from other people.



For more information, please visit
CORONAVIRUS.GOV

Staying home saves lives.

#AloneTogether



THE PRESIDENT'S CORONAVIRUS GUIDELINES FOR AMERICA

DO YOUR PART TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS

Even if you are young, or otherwise healthy, you are at risk and your activities can increase the risk for others. It is critical that you do your part to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Work or engage in schooling **FROM HOME** whenever possible.

IF YOU WORK IN A CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE INDUSTRY, as defined by the Department of Homeland Security, such as healthcare services and pharmaceutical and food supply, you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule. You and your employers should follow CDC guidance to protect your health at work.

AVOID SOCIAL GATHERINGS in groups of more than 10 people.

Avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts — **USE DRIVE-THRU, PICKUP, OR DELIVERY OPTIONS.**

AVOID DISCRETIONARY TRAVEL, shopping trips, and social visits.

DO NOT VISIT nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.

PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE:

- Wash your hands, especially after touching any frequently used item or surface.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow.
- Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.

CORONAVIRUS.GOV

School operations can accelerate the spread of the coronavirus. Governors of states with evidence of community transmission should close schools in affected and surrounding areas. Governors should close schools in communities that are near areas of community transmission, even if those areas are in neighboring states. In addition, state and local officials should close schools where coronavirus has been identified in the population associated with the school. States and localities that close schools need to address childcare needs of critical responders, as well as the nutritional needs of children.

Older people are particularly at risk from the coronavirus. All states should follow Federal guidance and halt social visits to nursing homes and retirement and long-term care facilities.

In states with evidence of community transmission, bars, restaurants, food courts, gyms, and other indoor and outdoor venues where groups of people congregate should be closed.

Steps to Help Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 If You Are Sick



Stay home except to get medical care.

- **Stay home:** Most people with COVID-19 have mild illness and are able to recover at home without medical care. Do not leave your home, except to get medical care. Do not visit public areas.
- **Stay in touch with your doctor.** Call before you get medical care. Be sure to get care if you have trouble breathing, or have any other [emergency warning signs](#), or if you think it is an [emergency](#).
- **Avoid public transportation:** Avoid using public transportation, ridesharing, or taxis.



Separate yourself from other people in your home; this is known as home isolation.

- **Stay away from others:** As much as possible, you stay away from others. You should stay in a specific “sick room” if possible, and away from other people in your home. Use a separate bathroom, if available.
 - See [COVID-19 and Animals](#) if you have questions about pets.



Call ahead before visiting your doctor.

- **Call ahead:** Many medical visits for routine care are being postponed or done by phone or telemedicine.
- If you have a medical appointment that cannot be postponed, call your doctor’s office, and tell them you have or may have COVID-19. This will help the office protect themselves and other patients.



If you are sick, wear a facemask in the following situations, if available.

- **If you are sick:** You should wear a facemask, if available, when you are around other people (including before you enter a healthcare provider’s office).
- **If you are caring for others:** If the person who is sick is not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then as their caregiver, you should wear a facemask when in the same room with them. Visitors, other than caregivers, are not recommended.



Cover your coughs and sneezes.

- **Cover:** Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- **Dispose:** Throw used tissues in a lined trash can.
- **Wash hands:** Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



Clean your hands often.

- **Wash hands:** Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. This is especially important after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- **Hand sanitizer:** If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry.
- **Soap and water:** Soap and water are the best option, especially if hands are visibly dirty.
- **Avoid touching:** Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.



Avoid sharing personal household items.

- **Do not share:** Do not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding with other people in your home.
- **Wash thoroughly after use:** After using these items, wash them thoroughly with soap and water or put in the dishwasher.



Clean all “high-touch” surfaces every day.

Clean high-touch surfaces in your isolation area (“sick room” and bathroom) every day; let a caregiver clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces in other areas of the home.

- **Clean and disinfect:** Routinely clean high-touch surfaces in your “sick room” and bathroom. Let someone else clean and disinfect surfaces in common areas, but not your bedroom and bathroom.

High-touch surfaces include phones, remote controls, counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, keyboards, tablets, and bedside tables.

- **Clean and disinfect areas that may have blood, stool, or body fluids on them.**
- **Household cleaners and disinfectants:** Clean the area or item with soap and water or another detergent if it is dirty. Then, use a household disinfectant.



Monitor your symptoms.

- Common symptoms of COVID-19 include fever and cough. Trouble breathing is a more serious symptom that means you should get medical attention.
- **If you are having trouble breathing, seek medical attention, but call first.**
 - Call your doctor or emergency room before going in and tell them your symptoms. They will tell you what to do.
- **Wear a facemask:** If available, put on a facemask before you enter the building. If you can't put on a facemask, cover your coughs and sneezes. Try to stay at least 6 feet away from other people. This will help protect the people in the office or waiting room.
- **Follow care instructions from your healthcare provider and local health department:** Your local health authorities may give instructions on checking your symptoms and reporting information.

For more information, visit the CDC website: [COVID-19: What to Do If You Are Sick](#)

When to Seek Medical Attention

If you develop emergency warning signs for COVID-19, get **medical attention immediately**. Emergency warning signs include:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion or inability to arouse
- Bluish lips or face

This list is not all inclusive. Please consult your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning.

Call 911 if you have a medical emergency: If you have a medical emergency and need to call 911, notify the operator that you have or think you might have, COVID-19. If possible, put on a facemask before medical help arrives.

Webinars

Upcoming Webinars



Managing the Emotional Consequences of Public Health Emergencies *Tuesday, April 7, 2020 from 1 PM – 2 PM ET*

Please join the Region II National Preparedness Division for a webinar on managing the emotional consequences of public health emergencies. Learn about the unique aspects of management and response required to effectively address the mental and emotional effects of emergencies.

Guest speaker, Steve Crimando, MA, CHPP, CTM, director of training for the Disaster and Terrorism Branch, New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, will lead the discussion and provide resources.

Link to register: https://icpd.adobeconnect.com/r2_phep/event/registration.html



Continuity: Why You Should Care and How We Can Help? *Thursday, April 9, 2020 from 12 PM – 1 PM ET*

Please join us to learn how FEMA National Continuity Programs can help you and your organization prepare to create a more resilient nation equipped to sustain essential functions and deliver critical services under all conditions. Continuity ensures the whole community plans for ways to provide essential services and conduct activities when normal operations are disrupted.

Emma Poon, Regional and Stakeholders Branch Chief, FEMA National Continuity Programs Plans, Policy, and Evaluations Division will be the guest speaker.

Link to register: <https://icpd.adobeconnect.com/r2continuityhelp/event/registration.html>



Protect and Manage Your Finances During Covid-19 *Wednesday, April 15, 2020 from 12 PM - 1 PM ET*

Please join the Region II National Preparedness Division for a presentation from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB).

Federal, state, and local governments are working to respond to the growing public health threat of coronavirus, or COVID-19. The CFPB and other financial regulators have encouraged financial institutions to work with their customers to meet their community needs. Learn about how the CFPB is providing consumers with up-to-date information and resources to protect and manage their finances as the situation evolves during this difficult time.

Link to register: <https://icpd.adobeconnect.com/r2emergencyfundreg/event/registration.html>



CERT - Effective Interpersonal Communications

Tuesday, April 21, 2020 from 6 PM - 7:30 PM ET

Please join the FEMA Region II National Preparedness Division for a webinar to hone your interpersonal communication skills.

Effective communication skills are the pillars of building relationships, fostering teamwork, and increasing productivity and resilience. Skillful communication is also valuable when incorporating a trauma-informed approach when aiding communities affected crisis. Discover the tools needed to enhance how you can improve your communications between each other and for those you serve.

Link to register: <https://icpd.adobeconnect.com/communicatingeffectivelycert/event/registration.html>

Recorded Webinars and Podcasts

[Trauma-Informed Management of People in Crisis](#)

The Trauma-Informed Management of People in Crisis webinar discusses what “trauma” is from a psychological standpoint and how crises effect individuals. Participants are taught how to recognize signs of stress in coworkers, the general public, or themselves and develop approaches to better address these from a managerial standpoint.

[Psychological First Aid for CERT](#)

The Psychological First Aid for CERT webinar dives deeper into strategies for addressing psychological stress in yourself, coworkers, or the general public that you may come in contact with during the course of emergency response situations.

Note: All FEMA Region II webinar recordings can be found on our website in the [Individual and Community Preparedness Webinars](#) Section.

[Mental Health in a Time of Crisis](#)

This one-hour, two-minute seminar discusses how the COVID-19 pandemic, like other traumatic events, can have a substantial impact on the mental health of populations. This mental health response is shaped both by the disease itself and by its economic and social consequences, which can shape mental health for months and years to come. Speakers detail the state-of-the-science about mental health after large-scale events, and potential approaches to mitigate adverse mental health consequences.

[Science of Social Distancing, Part 1](#)

This one-hour, 25-minute webinar is the first in a COVID-19 Conversations series, co-sponsored with the National Academy of Medicine. Public health, medical, and emergency experts share the science on social distancing, as well as strategies to support it. Speakers explore how findings from past pandemics — as well as the current one — can shape responses today.

[Clinical Guidance and Coronavirus: Deploying a Mass Casualty Mindset to Stay Ahead of “The Curve”](#)

This one-hour, 25-minute webinar provides clear and concrete clinical applications of the World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 guidelines, as well as those of various emergency management/critical care professional societies for front-line practitioners. It examines lessons learned from the Ebola, SARS, H1N1, H5N1, and MERS outbreaks; Las Vegas Shooting; and Military Mass Casualty Management.

[CDC's Most Recent and Featured Podcasts – Making a Simple Respiratory Mask](#)

Dr. Virginia Dato, a physician board certified in public health and general preventive medicine, and Sarah Gregory discuss how to construct a simple respiratory face mask with easily available materials.

Helpful Information and Resources

[How to Help](#)

- Cash donations to the non-profit of your choice IS THE BEST donation.
- If you have medical supplies or equipment to donate, you may do so through the American Red Cross by filling out the in-kind donations form available on [redcross.org](https://www.redcross.org).
- Trained medical volunteers can offer their services by registering with a National VOAD member on [nvoad.org](https://www.nvoad.org). Licensed medical volunteers can offer their services by registering with the [Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals](#).
- One thing people can do to help is to donate blood. Many blood drives have been cancelled, impacting the supply. Blood donation centers have the highest standards of safety and infection control. To find where you can donate blood, visit [redcross.org](https://www.redcross.org).
- To sell medical supplies or equipment to the federal government, businesses can register through the [System for Award Management](#) (SAM).
- Donate blood to ensure there is a stable supply during this time of uncertainty. The need for blood products is constant. [Find a blood drive near you](#).
- **New York:** If you own or manage a large space, fill out the [Share Your Space Survey](#). The survey identifies spaces in your community that could potentially support emergency operations, such as the response to COVID-19.

[Other Resources](#)

- **Phone Advice Line Guidelines for Children or Adults with Possible COVID-19:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/phone-guide/index.html>
- Protect yourself financially from the impact of the coronavirus https://www.consumerfinance.gov/about-us/blog/protect-yourself-financially-from-impact-of-coronavirus/#anchor_paying-bills
- **Operation HOPE COVID-19 Financial Recovery Assistance Services:** <https://www.hopeinsidecovid19.org/recovery>

- **FDIC Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information for Bankers and Consumers:**
<https://www.fdic.gov/coronavirus/index.html>
- **US Small Business Administration** offers [Disaster Assistance to Small Businesses Economically Impacted by the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- **NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities**
[COVID-19 Guidance for Community Providers of Services for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#)
[COVID-19 Guidance for Individuals and Families of Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#)
- **NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Deaf and Hard of Hearing** has an updated communication tool for use by consumers, first responders, hospitals and healthcare staff to facilitate safe and critical communication between first responders and those who are deaf and hard of hearing. A English: https://nj.gov/humanservices/documents/covid/Corona%20Virus%20Card%20-%20%202%20up-RB_v2.pdf
Spanish: https://nj.gov/humanservices/library/slides/Corona%20Virus%20Card%20-%20%202%20up-RB_v2-SP.pdf
- **[SAMHSA's COVID-19 Guidance and Resources](#)**
Given the rapidly evolving situation with COVID-19, SAMHSA is providing regular updates via a new consolidated COVID-19 page. This page can be found at samhsa.gov/coronavirus. Please check for new updates.
- **Disaster Distress Helpline:** The national Disaster Distress Helpline 24/7/365 crisis counseling & emotional support continues to be available for anyone experiencing distress or other mental health concerns following the tornadoes in Tennessee or during the ongoing COVID-19 infectious disease outbreak. Calls (1-800-985-5990; press "2" for Spanish) and texts (text TalkWithUs to 66746) are answered by trained counselors from a network of independently operated crisis centers located across the U.S.
1-800-985-5990
Text TalkWithUs to 66746.
- [Children and Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\): Tips to keep children healthy while school's out](#)
- Measures to prevent COVID-19 in your community, including at home, in childcare settings and schools, homeless centers, at work and in faith and community-based settings:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html>
- Information for higher-risk and special populations: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/index.html>
- Information specifically related to domestic and international travel:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>
- General Frequently Asked Questions, including how it spread, symptoms, and what to do if you are sick:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>
- [COVID-19 Resources for Artists & Art Organizations](#)
- [COVID-19 Resources for Nonprofits and Community-Based Organizations](#)



- [Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#)
- [Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Home](#)
- [USA.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.usa.gov/coronavirus) - See what government agencies are doing in response to COVID-19.

Resources by State, Territory, Commonwealth

- **New York:**
 - <https://health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>
 - New York state’s coronavirus hotline is 1-888-364-3065. To receive updates on the coronavirus from New York City, text ‘COVID’ to 692-692.
 - National Alliance on Mental Illness – NY
<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07egz8q4y72f9585ec&llr=zga6rzja&showPage=true>
 - National Alliance on Mental Illness – NYC <https://www.naminycmetro.org/coronavirus-covid-19/>
 - Put an end to bias incidents and hate stemming from COVID-19 stigma. Call 311 to report any COVID-19 related discrimination to the [New York City Commission on Human Rights](#). Call 911 if you are a victim of or witness a hate crime.
- **New Jersey:**
 - Have general questions about COVID-19? Call the public hotline! Call the NJ COVID-19 & Poison Center Public Hotline at 1-800-962-1253 or 1-800-222-1222. Trained professionals are standing by to answer your call 24/7 OR visit nj.gov/health.
 - For general information and basic needs, dial 211. Sign up for automated text alerts and notifications by texting ‘NJCOVID’ to 898-211.
 - Crisis counseling line – 1-866-202-4357 (HELP)
 - National Alliance on Mental Illness - NJ <https://www.naminj.org/covid19/>
 - Riverside Medical COVID-19 testing center for Hoboken residents – call (201) 420-5621 in advance to schedule an appointment.
- **Puerto Rico:** PR department of Health - <http://www.salud.gov.pr/Pages/coronavirus.aspx> or call (787) 999-6202
- **U.S. Virgin Islands:** USVI Department of Health - Visit <https://doh.vi.gov/covid19usvi> or TEXT COVID19USVI to 888777 for alerts and notifications.

Other Covid-19 News

President Extends Slow the Spread Campaign to April 30

On March 29, President Trump extended the [Slow the Spread](#) campaign through April 30. Even if you are young and otherwise healthy, you, too, are at risk of contracting and/or spreading the COVID-19 disease—and your activities can increase the risk of contracting the coronavirus for others. The White House released [guidelines](#) that build upon the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations to help prevent spread of the virus.

CDC Issues Domestic Travel Advisory for NY, NJ and CT

Due to extensive community transmission of COVID -19 in the area, CDC urges residents of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut to refrain from non-essential domestic travel for 14 days effective immediately. This Domestic Travel Advisory does not apply to employees of critical infrastructure industries, including but not limited to trucking, public health professionals, financial services, and food supply. These employees of critical infrastructure, as defined by the Department of Homeland Security (<https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforceexternal> icon), have a special responsibility to maintain normal work schedules. The Governors of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut will have full discretion to implement this Domestic Travel Advisory.

US Small Business Administration and Treasury Begin Unprecedented Public-Private Mobilization Effort to Distribute Funds

Following President Trump's signing of the historic Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, SBA Administrator Jovita Carranza and Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin announced that the SBA and Treasury Department have initiated a robust mobilization effort of banks and other lending institutions to provide small businesses with the capital they need. The CARES Act establishes a new \$349 billion Paycheck Protection Program. The Program will provide much-needed relief to millions of small businesses so they can sustain their businesses and keep their workers employed.

GISCorps Compiles Nationwide Map of COVID-19 Testing Sites

Over 500 volunteers from [GISCorps](#) compiled a nation-wide map of COVID-19 testing sites, including those administered by local agencies and healthcare facilities. GISCorps volunteers include Geospatial Information System (GIS) professionals and qualified data analysts. The general public can use the [Testing Sites Locator](#) to find testing sites in their community. Users can search for an address or place, set the distance to search, and click a location on the map or from a list of results. The map includes status (e.g. operational, closed), address, whether a referral is required, operational hours, driving directions, facility website, and date of last update.

New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS) Issues Recommendations for Members and Partner Congregations

NYDIS recommends the closure of all houses of worship to public worship and community life, leaving them open only for prayer or essential social services operated safely with strict social distancing. All congregations who are able, should live stream or FaceTime their worship services and sermons. NYDIS recommends clergy work with family or healthcare professionals to offer prayers via video chat. All congregations should encourage members to take care of and check-in on their elderly and vulnerable neighbors. For more information, visit <https://www.nydis.org>.

Tri-State Canine Response Team Provides Virtual Therapy Dog Sessions

On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, the Tri-State Canine Response Team provides Virtual Therapy Dog sessions for students and special needs classes who are not able to visit with their emotional support dogs during social separation. Being able to stay connected is important with children who have formed this special bond with their canine partner. For more information, visit the [Tri-State K-9 Crisis Response Team Facebook page](#).

NJ Interfaith Advisory Council Members Provide Testimonials on Coping During This Crisis

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy issued [Executive Order \(EO\) 107](#), which bolsters EO 104 and asks all New Jersey residents to stay at home until further notice. Gatherings of individuals, such as parties, celebrations, or other social events are to be canceled. The Governor understands how EO 107 places strain on congregations

but has decided that was necessary for the safety of all New Jerseyans. The Governor has asked several IAC members to provide testimonials on how they are presently coping during this crisis. You can view this video at <https://vimeo.com/400749391/c56fff0ec6>.

CERT (and other Volunteers) Corner

The FEMA Region II National Preparedness Division is looking to provide a forum where entities doing important community work in support of local officials, can share information about activities they are performing in an effort to foster awareness of good ideas and best practices. We realize there are many CERT, MRC, VOAD/COAD and other volunteers assisting with the response and recovery of Covid-19. If you would like to share your stories and/or photos here, please email deborah.costa@fema.dhs.gov.

Spotlight: New York Area Agency on Aging Networks (AAA)

In early March, Greg Olsen was able to have the Area Agency on Aging Networks (AAA) designated as 'essential workers' by the Governor, allowing their nutrition service delivery to be expanded so that older people who needed a daily meal would receive it. These meals are delivered by AAA volunteers.

Sadly, AAA lost their first NY volunteer recently. This letter reaches an amazing balance of reality, dedication, respect, and service, while also encouraging us to pause and give thanks for the selfless action of volunteers and brace for the work ahead with dignity and honor.

Letter from Greg Olsen, Acting Director for the New York State Office for Aging to county-based New York Area Agencies on Aging and their dedicated volunteers, March 29, 2020:

It is with a heavy heart that we alert you that one of our network's volunteers died yesterday from COVID-19. He was a 68-year-old male with no health issues who was transporting people to medical appointments and delivering groceries to home bound older New Yorkers. He began having symptoms three days ago and unfortunately, died yesterday. His sister, who retired from the office for the aging three years ago and is also a volunteer has developed symptoms. Our thoughts and prayers are with her in hopes she fully recovers, her family and friends and the entire OFA community that they volunteered for.

It is hard to imagine the decisions that you have to make. As with the 40,000 retired health care workers that have reentered hospitals to help knowing full well, they place their lives and that of their families at risk, you have to balance the drive that volunteers and staff have to help with that of keeping people safe. Staff and volunteers accept the risks just as health care professionals do, as home care and personal care aides do and all of those on the front lines who are providing essential services. You all have done an amazing job in putting accurate information out and practicing the protocols that will keep people safe, slow the spread, while undertaking the very difficult tasks of providing critical services in peoples home who would face significant hardship without what you are doing. We cannot stop people from helping, from risking their own lives to help others. All we can do is the best we can to protect them and ourselves as we navigate what is an incredibly difficult set of circumstances. And we need to understand and accept the risk people will, and are taking, to help their neighbors.

We wish that we could say that this gentleman will be the last staff/volunteer that will fall victim to this virus, but we know that is not going to be the case.

We know that any loss will be hard on you and others. We hope that you utilize the resources that have been established to help cope with situations like this and recognize that it is not your fault. It is a difficult balance. The following resources are there for you and your staff and your community. Please do not hesitate to use them.

CERT COVID-19 Activities

- Teams are being utilized to assist with 211 Calls/COVID Hotline;
- Packaging PPE for EMS / Law Enforcement;
- Supporting local schools by delivering school lunches, homework packets or laptops;
- Assembled a Western Shelter tent to be used for patient screening;
- Providing awareness of the transmission of COVID-19 using CDC brochures, hotlines, adaptive policies and door to door delivery of information packets.
- Working the COVID-19 Call Center at the Health Department and at the EOC signing folks into the EOC center;
- Controlling the flow of traffic into screening areas, collecting information for County Health Department;
- Preparing to stand up call center for COVID-19 related calls into County Offices;
- Building teams to deliver goods to self-quarantined community members;
- CERT set up the county EOC for activation if/when needed. This is something they train on quarterly;
- CERT is assisting Medical Center with visitor screening and information;
- CERT is participating in daily briefings to maintain readiness;
- Distributing CDC COVID-19 prevention strategies and protocols for those showing symptoms/knowingly been exposed;
- CERT PODs Unit manages food distribution with the private sector Food Pantry, with the transportation unit delivering two days a week;
- CERT Translation Unit is active with ten languages;
- CERT recently created an MIS Unit to track information essential to the efficient use of resources and deployment needs;
- Implemented the Incident Command System, established an Emergency Operations Center, and a CERT Hotline allowing residents to call for referrals on suspected COVID-19 exposures and symptoms, utilizing local, county and state resources.

VOAD COVID-19 Activities

- Holding weekly coordination calls with all members and partners, providing up to date information on our collective response and assessing community needs;
- Monitoring situational updates and responding to requests as part of the SEOC ESF-6 & 7 teams;
- Updated helpnknow.org with specific public facing information from trusted sources;
- Implemented our Continuity of Operations Plan and Disaster Protocols and are fully operational;
- Supporting state food banks with targeted volunteer staffing to supplement staff while maintaining social distancing discipline;
- Exploring cooperation of VOAD organizations with local school districts in support of free and reduced meal program distribution;
- Working closely with our members and partners to assess and respond to needs and support “out of the box” solutions that support the health of the public and our volunteers;
- Developing a web-based need-resources database for matching community needs to resource in real time;
- Supporting state food banks with targeted volunteer staffing to supplement staff while maintaining social distancing discipline;
- Accessing plans for concurrent disasters.

NYC Service recognizes that many COVID-19 response efforts need volunteer support. In order to help match volunteers to response and recovery needs, the City of New York is activating its **Volunteer Coordination Task Force (VCTF)**: a collaboration between NYC Service, New York Cares, NYC Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NYC

VOAD) and NYC Emergency Management that helps connect individuals and volunteer groups with emergency-related projects.

For Organizations not engaging volunteers at this time:

If your organization will not be engaging volunteers in response to COVID-19, we ask all of our partners to direct any spontaneous individuals volunteers to the [New York Cares Interest Form](#) to be matched with volunteer opportunities.

For Organizations engaging volunteers at this time:

If your organization is currently engaging volunteers or has the capacity to engage volunteers in either of these ways:

1. Ready to engage volunteers on projects outside of your organization's typical programming.
2. Ready to in-take new volunteers to fulfill needs and want to request volunteer support.

Please complete this [survey](#), and NYC Service partner New York Cares will reach out and may connect you to projects in need of volunteers or volunteers looking to get involved.

Educational/Training Opportunities

The National Emergency Training Center (NETC) is suspending all on-campus training activities for a period of four (4) weeks, beginning 3/15/2020 through 4/11/2020. They will work to reschedule courses for later in the year to the maximum extent possible.



Train from Anywhere with the Independent Study Program

Your training and professional development can continue even in an extensive telework and virtual environment. The Emergency Management Institute's (EMI) [Independent Study \(IS\) Program](#) is a free resource you can use to broaden your emergency management expertise. The IS program features 208 active courses which cover a wide range of topics and are designed to be self-paced, concise introductions to their subjects.

Here are a few IS courses that may be of interest to our readers:

- **IS-0546a Continuity of Operations Awareness**
- **IS-0547a Introduction to Continuity of Operations**
- **IS-288a The Role of Voluntary Organizations in Emergency Management**
- **IS-505 Religious and Cultural Literacy and Competency in Disaster**
- **IS-0200.HCA Applying the Incident Command System to Healthcare Organizations**

For more information go to <https://training.fema.gov/mission.aspx>

Must Reads



[Optimizing Ventilator Use During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

This 43-page document discusses a possible crisis standard of care strategy currently contemplated by several centers during the COVID-19 pandemic, which is the ventilation of two patients with a single mechanical ventilator. This guidance provides technical documents developed by academic leaders assembled at FEMA, in order to provide an example of the type of circuits, setups, and anticipated problems that one might face if this strategy is employed - in a crisis care, life-or-death, situation.

[Converting Alternate Care Sites to Patient Space Options](#)

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the nation's hospitals are preparing for an exponential number of patients in need of care. It is vital to seek and implement ways to increase patient capacity across the country by making additional spaces for our patients. This web page provides guidance to help healthcare facilities create those spaces.

[FEMA Higher Education Program Newsletter](#)

The Higher Education Program is a federal government initiative focused on the safety and longevity of future generations via civil preparedness. The Higher Education Program is FEMA's outreach mechanism for keeping the science and study of emergency response alive and well for future generations. This week's newsletter contains a message from the Higher Education Program Manager, program updates, college lists, employment, other opportunities, resources, and a calendar of events.

[Ten Tips for Emergency Responders, Healthcare Providers for Managing Stress During the COVID-19 Crisis](#)

Emergency responders and healthcare professionals have stressful jobs due to the type of work they perform. During a crisis, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, these professionals may start to feel overwhelmed and have higher levels of stress. While they may be physically prepared to respond to a higher volume of public needs, it is important for them to be mindful of maintaining their mental health and overall well-being. This blog post contains some quick and useful tips for emergency responders and healthcare providers to reduce stress.

[Federal Agencies Create Pages to Help People Identify Scams and Cyberattacks Related to COVID-19](#)

- The [Federal Trade Commission coronavirus page](#) lists details about known scams and lists information on reporting scams.
- The [Food and Drug Administration's COVID-19 fraud page](#) lists instructions for reporting fraudulent products.
- The [FBI's page on COVID-19 fraud](#) also has instructions for reporting fraud.
- [USA.gov](#) has a robust list of what federal agencies are doing to support COVID-19 response that includes a section on scams and fraud.
- The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) offers [tips to protect against scams and cyberattacks](#).
- [StaySafeOnline.org](#) lists ways consumers can protect themselves from COVID-19 scams.

FEMA News

[FEMA Provides Guidance on Sale and Donation of Medical Supplies](#)

FEMA continues to take aggressive and proactive steps to address the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The outpouring of support from the private sector to provide medical supplies and equipment has been tremendous. FEMA has developed guidelines on how private sector partners can help by selling or donating medical supplies to the federal government. To read more about how you can help, visit the [FEMA blog](#).

[FEMA Alert System Used Nationwide for Coronavirus Messaging](#)

Emergency officials across the country are using [FEMA Integrated Public Alert and Warning System \(IPAWS\)](#) to send important safety messages on the coronavirus pandemic to their local residents. As of early Monday,

March 30, 50 agencies across 15 states and the District of Columbia, the Navajo Nation and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico have sent a total of 88 text messages regarding the coronavirus pandemic. Messages, some in Spanish language, have ranged from announcing stay-at-home and shelter-in-place orders to public health information.

FEMA has Launched a Public-Facing Best Practices Site for Emerging Issues

The Best Practices site is up and linked off of <https://www.fema.gov/coronavirus>, and can be accessed directly at <https://www.fema.gov/coronavirus/best-practices>. This collection of best practices come from successful interventions and the experiences of other communities that have already faced some of the COVID-19 challenges. This site is not exhaustive, but instead highlight some key areas where communities could benefit from learning from the experiences of others. Each community knows their requirements best. Additionally, there has been a [DHS Ideascale page](#) launched that enables the public and others in the community to provide their thoughts and ideas of things that should be considered.

FEMA Continues to Update Coronavirus Rumor Control Page



Due to the large amount of speculation regarding COVID-19 federal response, FEMA Launched a new [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Rumor Control page](#) on its website. It serves as a reminder to rely on official sources for accurate information.

Many news outlets and social media platforms are flooding our screens with information, some of these are facts while others are rumors. Please visit website to help your friends, family, and communities know the facts. You can sign up for the latest updates, and see localized information and rumor control from your local and state officials.

Find the latest updates from federal agencies on the federal website [Coronavirus.gov](https://www.coronavirus.gov).

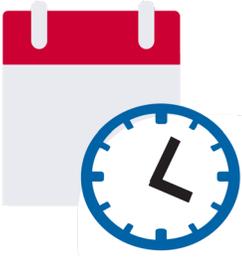
FEMA Shares the Voluntary Organization Information System for Engagement (VOISE) Dashboard

In order to relay important information that may be of service to voluntary agency partners, the FEMA Voluntary Agency Liaisons are sharing [The Voluntary Organization Information System for Engagement \(VOISE\)](#). This dashboard consolidates an abundance of information into one platform and is a sharable resource for operational partners. FEMA will be posting advisories, meeting notes, and important dates on this platform throughout the COVID-19 activation. Later, FEMA hopes that it will become a daily check in for information on programs and resources relevant to its partners.

FEMA Hiring

FEMA currently has a multitude of job openings throughout the country. Join FEMA in their mission - to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards - View current job listings at <https://careers.fema.gov/find-job>.

Deadlines and Cancellations



[New Jersey Emergency Preparedness Association 2020 Conference Postponed Until August 24-28, 2020](#)

[FEMA Cancels Remainder of National Level Exercise 2020](#)

[2020 National VOAD Conference Canceled](#)

22nd Annual Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium Seeks Proposals

Student research is a critical aspect of building the body of knowledge in the discipline and profession of emergency management and homeland security. The FEMA Higher Education Program seeks proposals for the Student Research Session at the [22nd Annual Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium](#). The presentations will take place on June 1, 2020. Proposals should be submitted to caroline.hackerott@ndsu.edu no later than Apr. 30, 2020. The proposals must include: name of presenter; names of all contributing authors; institution and program represented; degree level; presentation title; and proposal (no more than 1000 words).

Preparedness Grant Deadlines Extended

In response to COVID-19, FEMA will extend the deadline to submit applications for the following five preparedness grant programs:

- [Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program](#)
- [Transit Security Grant Program](#)
- [Intercity Bus Security Grant Program](#)
- [Intercity Passenger Rail Program](#)
- [Port Security Grant Program](#)

Applications must be received by the new submission deadline of 5:00 p.m. EDT, Apr. 30, 2020. Additional questions may be directed to the [Grants Program Directorate](#).

Emergency Grants to Address Mental and Substance Use Disorders During COVID-19

SAMHSA is accepting applications for [Emergency Grants to Address Mental and Substance Use Disorders During COVID-19](#) (Emergency COVID-19) until **April 10**. The purpose of this program is to provide crisis intervention services, mental and substance use disorder treatment, crisis counseling, and other related supports for children and adults impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding will be provided for states, territories, and tribes to develop comprehensive systems to address these needs. The purpose of this program is specifically to address the needs of individuals with serious mental illness, individuals with substance use disorders, and/or individuals with co-occurring serious mental illness and substance use disorders.

FEMA Seeks Public Comment on NFIP Publication Regulations

On Feb. 12, FEMA published a [Federal Register](#) notice for public comments on two proposed changes to the Code of Federal Regulations regarding publication requirements for the National Flood Insurance Program. Comments for proposed changes are due no later than **April 13**. Detailed instruction on how to comment can be found on the [Federal Register site](#).