



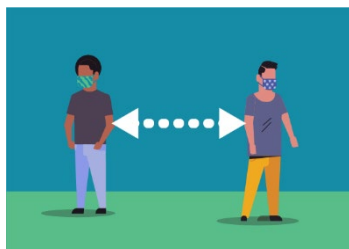
Preparedness and Resilience Bulletin: Empowering People and Communities

Special
COVID-19
Edition!



Social Distancing

What is social distancing?



Social distancing, also called “physical distancing,” means keeping space between yourself and other people outside of your home. To practice social or physical distancing:

- Stay at least 6 feet (2 meters) from other people
- Do not gather in groups
- Stay out of crowded places and avoid mass gatherings

In addition to [everyday steps to prevent COVID-19](#), keeping space between you and others is one of the best tools we have to avoid being exposed to this virus and slowing its spread locally and across the country.

When COVID-19 is spreading in your area, everyone should limit close contact with individuals outside your household in indoor and outdoor spaces. Since people can spread the virus before they know they are sick, it is important to stay away from others when possible, even if you have no symptoms. Social distancing is especially important for [people who are at higher risk of getting very sick](#).

Why practice social distancing?

COVID-19 spreads mainly among people who are in close contact (within about 6 feet) for a prolonged period. Spread happens when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks, and droplets from their mouth or nose are launched into the air and land in the mouths or noses of people nearby. The droplets can also be inhaled into the lungs. Recent studies indicate that people who are infected but do not have symptoms likely also play a role in the spread of COVID-19.

It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes. However, this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. COVID-19 can live for hours or days on a surface, depending on factors such as sun light and humidity. Social distancing helps limit contact with infected people and contaminated surfaces.

Although the risk of severe illness may be different for everyone, anyone can get and spread COVID-19. Everyone has a role to play in slowing the spread and protecting themselves, their family, and their community.

Tips for social distancing

- Follow guidance from authorities where you live.
- If you need to shop for food or medicine at the grocery store or pharmacy, stay at least 6 feet away from others.
 - Use mail-order for medications, if possible.
 - Consider a grocery delivery service.
 - Cover your mouth and nose with a [cloth face cover](#) when around others, including when you have to go out in public, for example to the grocery store.
 - Stay at least 6 feet between yourself and others, even when you wear a face covering.
- Avoid large and small gatherings in private places and public spaces, such as a friend's house, parks, restaurants, shops, or any other place. This advice applies to people of any age, including teens and younger adults. Children should not have in-person playdates while school is out. To help maintain social connections while social distancing, learn [tips to keep children healthy while school's out](#).
- Work from home when possible.
- If possible, avoid using any kind of public transportation, ridesharing, or taxis.
- If you are a student or parent, talk to your school about options for digital/distance learning.

Stay connected while staying away. It is very important to stay in touch with friends and family that don't live in your home. Call, video chat, or stay connected using social media. Everyone reacts differently to stressful situations and having to socially distance yourself from someone you love can be difficult. [Read tips for stress and coping](#).

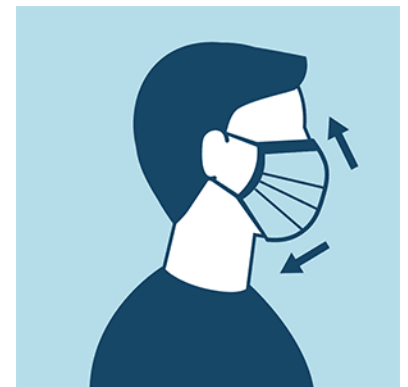
Source: CDC.gov

Face Coverings Help Slow the Spread

How to Wear Cloth Face Coverings

Cloth face coverings should:

- Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- Be secured with ties or ear loops
- Include multiple layers of fabric
- Allow for breathing without restriction
- Be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape



Homemade Cloth Face Coverings

CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public setting where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies), especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.

CDC also advises the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others. Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost can be used as an additional, voluntary public health measure.

Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance.

The cloth face coverings recommended are not surgical masks of N-95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance.

**Should cloth face coverings be washed or otherwise cleaned regularly?
How regularly?**

Yes – they should be routinely washed depending on the frequency of use.

How does one safely sterilize/clean a cloth face covering?

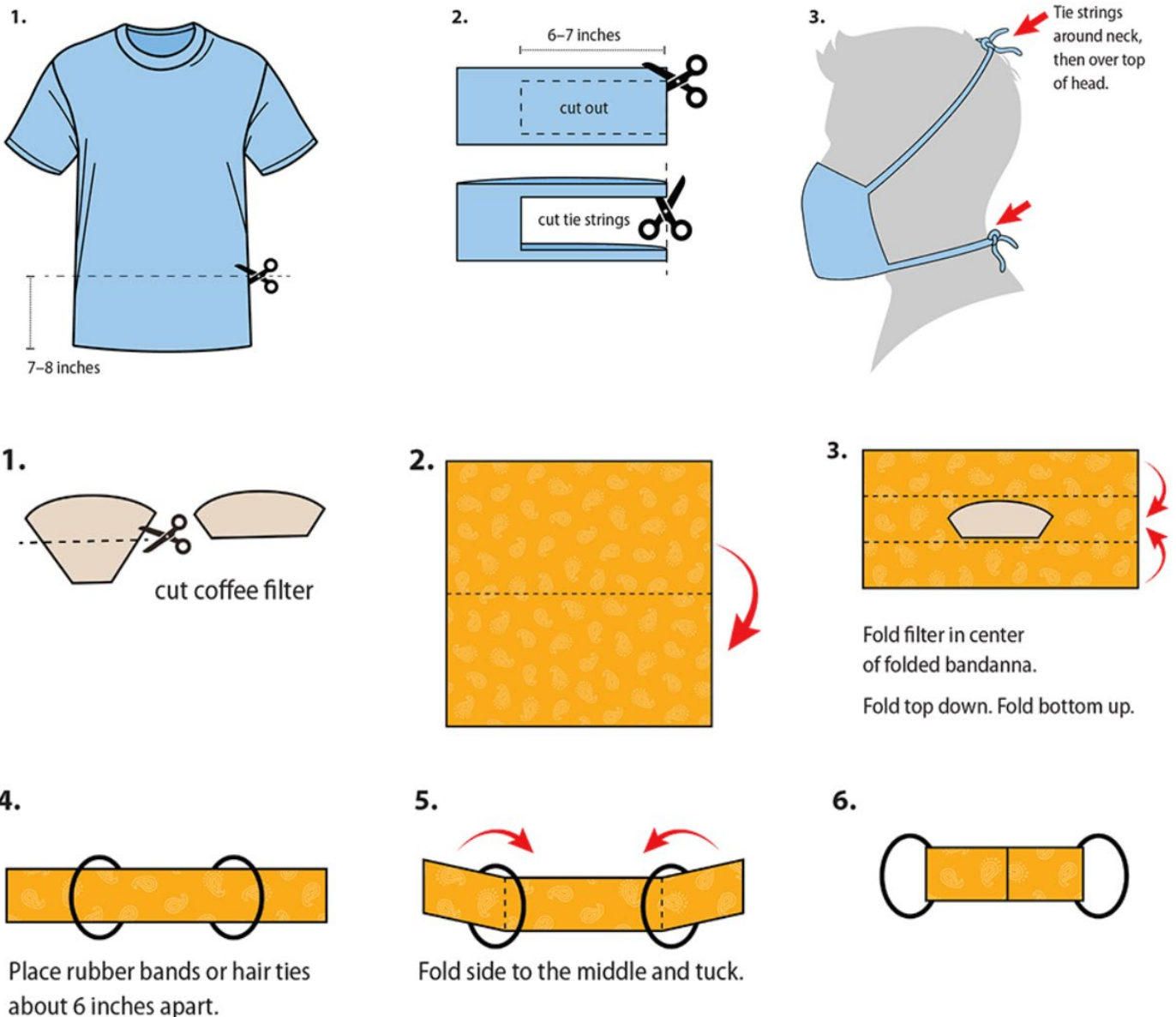
A washing machine should suffice in properly washing a cloth face covering.

How does one safely remove a used cloth face covering?

Individuals should be careful not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth when removing their cloth face covering and wash hands immediately after removing.



The CDC provides multiple guides on [how to make your own face coverings](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) out of various materials and using various methods. For more information, visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).



Source: CDC.gov

Webinars

Upcoming Webinars



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 FEMA Region II Webinars

[Managing the Emotional Consequences of Public Health Emergencies](#)

The Managing the Emotional Consequences of Public Health Emergencies webinar discusses the unique aspects of management and response required to effectively address the mental and emotional effects of emergencies. Guest speaker Steve Crimando, director of training for the Disaster and Terrorism Branch for the New Jersey Department of Human Services, leads the discussion and provides resources.

[Continuity: Why You Should Care and How We Can Help?](#)

This webinar discusses 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.

[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 affect 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](#).

Webinar Trainings for Congregations & Religious Leaders hosted by NY Disaster Interfaith Services

Register at nydisnet.eventbrite.com – Contact hduran@nydis.org for any questions



Plan Writing:

Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for Congregations with No Plan

Free 2.5-hour virtual COOP writing workshop for congregation decision-makers tasked with writing an emergency plan. This workshop is targeted specifically towards congregations who do not have an emergency action plan or COOP in place.

NYC Only: Tuesday, April 14, 9:30am-12:00pm

Open to All: Tuesday, April 21, 9:30am-12:00pm

NYC Only: Tuesday, April 28, 9:30am-12:00pm

COVID-19 Pandemic: Crisis Spiritual Care for Congregations

During this time of extraordinary disruption and anxiety, NYDIS is hosting a free two hour webinar which offers an overview of crisis spiritual care best practices – including, general crisis spiritual care principles and interventions, disaster mental health & caregiver self-care. The webinar will explore the unique challenges to providing spiritual care facing clergy and lay caregivers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

NYC Only: Thursday, April 16, 10:00am-12:00pm

Open to All: Thursday, April 23, 10:00am-12:00pm

NYC Only: Thursday, April 30, 10:00am-12:00pm

Pandemic Virtual Exercise: Testing Your Plans

Free two-hour Pandemic Virtual Exercise for congregations and faith-based organizations to discuss their upcoming plans using a pandemic scenario. This exercise is specifically designed to troubleshoot and find solutions for the unique obstacles facing congregations and organizations, during a pandemic.

NYC Only: Friday, April 17, 10:00am-12:00pm

Open to All: Friday, April 24, 10:00am-12:00pm

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](https://www.emergencyregistration.org).
- To sell medical supplies or equipment to the federal government, businesses can register through the [System for Award Management](https://www.sam.gov) (SAM).
- The American Red Cross continues to seek blood and convalescent plasma donations.
 - People who fully recovered from COVID-19 have antibodies in their plasma that can attack the virus.
 - This convalescent plasma is being evaluated as treatment for patients seriously ill with COVID-19. Historically, convalescent plasma has been used as a potentially lifesaving treatment when new diseases or infections develop quickly, and no treatments or vaccines were available yet.
 - U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) asked the Red Cross to help identify prospective donors and manage the distribution of these products to hospitals treating patients in need. More information at [RedCross.org](https://www.redcross.org).
- **New York:** If you own or manage a large space, fill out the [Share Your Space Survey](https://www.shareyourspace.org). The survey identifies spaces in your community that could potentially support emergency operations, such as the response to COVID-19.

Federal Agencies Create Pages to Help People Identify Scams and Cyberattacks Related to COVID-19

- The [Federal Trade Commission coronavirus page](https://www.ftc.gov/coronavirus) lists details about known scams and lists information on reporting scams.
- The [Food and Drug Administration's COVID-19 fraud page](https://www.fda.gov/oc/covid-19-fraud) lists instructions for reporting fraudulent products.
- The [FBI's page on COVID-19 fraud](https://www.fbi.gov/covid-19-fraud) also has instructions for reporting fraud.
- [USA.gov](https://www.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](https://www.cisa.gov/cyber-attacks).
- [StaySafeOnline.org](https://www.staysafeonline.org) lists ways consumers can protect themselves from COVID-19 scams.

Other Resources

- Epidemic/Pandemic Planning <https://www.dhs.gov/epidemicpandemic>
- **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 \(COVID-19\)](https://www.sba.gov/coronavirus)
- **NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities** [COVID-19 Guidance for Community Providers of Services for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/documents/covid/COVID-19%20Guidance%20for%20Community%20Providers%20of%20Services%20for%20Individuals%20with%20Intellectual%20and%20Developmental%20Disabilities)
[COVID-19 Guidance for Individuals and Families of Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/documents/covid/COVID-19%20Guidance%20for%20Individuals%20and%20Families%20of%20Individuals%20with%20Intellectual%20and%20Developmental%20Disabilities)
- **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](https://www.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.
- NYC COVID-19 Engagement Portal – Experiencing symptoms? Come into contact with someone who has? Register your symptoms on the [engagement portal](#).
- New York City Comptroller – [COVID-19 Resource Center](#)
- National Alliance on Mental Illness – [NY State](#)
- National Alliance on Mental Illness – NYC
<https://www.naminycmetro.org/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- Grab and go Meals for All New Yorkers – Visit NYC.gov or text the word ‘FOOD’ or ‘COMIDA’ to 877-877 to find a location near you.
- 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.
- Guidance for Human Services Nonprofit Organizations – [Business during COVID-19](#) guidance and answers to questions about nonprofit operations, business continuity, and programming during these critical times.



• 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 888-777 for alerts and notifications.

Other Covid-19 News

‘Slow the Spread’ Campaign Extended Through 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 are at risk of contracting and/or spreading the COVID-19 disease. Your activities can increase the risk of contracting the coronavirus for others. The White House released guidelines that build upon Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations to help prevent spread of the virus. Everyone should continue practicing strict personal hygiene, including washing hands regularly for at least 20 seconds each time and wiping down surfaces in your home often.

New York State on Pause Extended Through April 29

Amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced all [NYS on Pause functions](#) will be extended for an additional two weeks. The Governor also directed schools and nonessential businesses to stay closed for an additional two weeks through April 29th. The state will re-evaluate after this additional two-week period. Governor Cuomo also announced the state is increasing the maximum fine for violations of the state's social distancing protocol from \$500 to \$1,000 to help address the lack of adherence to social distancing protocols. The Governor reminded localities that they have the authority to enforce the protocols.

COVID-19-Related Phone Scams and Phishing Attacks

Members of the general public are receiving calls appearing to originate from CDC through caller ID, or they are receiving scammer voice mail messages saying the caller is from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), with some calls requesting donations. Malicious cyber criminals are also attempting to leverage interest and activity in COVID-19 to launch coronavirus-themed phishing emails. It is critical to stay vigilant and follow good security practices to help reduce the likelihood of falling victim to scams and phishing attacks. For more information, visit the CDC website on [COVID-19-related scams](#). To report suspicious activity, Internet scam, or cybercrime, visit the [FBI Internet Crime Complain Center](#).

Department of Health and Human Services Announces Upcoming Funding Action to Provide \$186 Million for COVID-19 Response

The [Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\)](#) is announcing upcoming action by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide \$186,000,000 in funding for additional resources to state and local jurisdictions in support of our nation's response to the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Testing and surveillance are a vital piece in efforts to beat the coronavirus, and this new funding will expand the ability to track and prevent the virus's spread across the country.

CDC Releases Interim Guidance for Critical Infrastructure Workers with Potential Exposure to COVID-19

To ensure continuity of operations of essential functions, CDC advises that critical infrastructure workers may be permitted to continue work following potential exposure to COVID-19, provided they remain asymptomatic and additional precautions are implemented to protect them and the community.

CDC Launches New Weekly COVID-19 Surveillance Report

CDC is modifying existing surveillance systems to track COVID-19, and posted the first of what will be a weekly surveillance report called, "[COVIDView](#)." The report, updated each Friday, will summarize and interpret key indicators, including information related to COVID-19 outpatient visits, emergency department visits, hospitalizations and deaths, as well as laboratory data.

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: CERT Medical Advisory Unit Best Practices

- Wearing surgical gloves isn't always necessary (it traps you into a false sense of security). Wash your hands every hour. Set a one-hour timer (cell phone/watch) somewhere near your workspace or note your start time on paper nearby.
- If you are more comfortable wearing surgical gloves, wash your gloves (while wearing them) every hour.
- Because the Food Pantry staff will be handling products that will reach the public, they should always wear gloves while working. Washing your hands every hour still applies.

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 and perform wellness checks;
- 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;
- Working with private and public partnerships to supply commodities and food;
- 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;
- Working with the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and the National Guard to help with regional and statewide response;



April 7 – Hoboken CERT members expanding DPMU capacity at a local hospital.

- 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 helpnynow.org with specific public facing information from trusted sources, in-kind donations management, cash donations, and volunteer management upon request and in coordination with NJOEM;
- Coordinating with FEMA and State VALs regularly;
- Providing a situational report listing services and resources available from the volunteer community to NJ 211;
- Amplifying messaging of partners;
- Providing collaboration platforms and coordination;
- Implemented our Continuity of Operations Plan and Disaster Protocols and are fully operational;
- In constant communication with network of 18 COAD organizations and also communicate regularly with local non-profit, faith-based, and community OEMs to assess needs and share resources;
- 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

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-0317 Introduction to Community Emergency Response Team**
- **IS-0662 Improving Preparedness and Resilience through Public-Private Partnerships**
- **IS-2000 National Preparedness Goal and System Overview**
- **IS-0075 Military Resources in Emergency Management**
- **IS-0042 Social Media in Emergency Management**



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

Virtual Delivery of L-550 Continuity of Operations Planners Course

Continuity plans facilitate the performance of essential functions during any situation which may disrupt normal operations. The goal of this workshop is to provide you with the tools and hands-on experience necessary to improve your organization's Continuity of Operations Plans. Additionally, this course will include a general brief on continuity of operations related to events such like the COVID19.

The course will be delivered through AdobeConnect web-based application on **April 21 to the 24** (4 half-days) from **8:00am to 12:00pm** which you can access from your home or telework location!

To register, send an email to jose.marchandparnell@fema.dhs.gov.

Must Reads



The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) just released [“COVID-19 Exposure and Risk Mitigation Best Practices for Law Enforcement,”](#) a resource guide to assist departments with the many different facets of response during the COVID-19 pandemic. It links to guidance, training and tools available from state and federal agencies. Much of the information contained in the guide is useful for other first responders.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released the [Personal Protective Equipment Burn Rate Calculator](#) to help you plan and optimize the use of PPE during COVID-19 response. While this Microsoft Excel spreadsheet-based model was developed with healthcare facilities in mind, it is available to any agency using PPE as part of their response.

[Advice on the Use of Masks in the Context of COVID-19](#)

This five-page document, updated on April 6, 2020, provides advice on the use of masks in communities, during home care, and in healthcare settings in areas that have reported cases of COVID-19. It is intended for

individuals in the community, public health and infection prevention and control (IPC) professionals, health care managers, health care workers (HCWs), and community health workers. This updated version includes a section on advice to decision-makers on the use of masks for healthy people in community settings.

[Rational Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) and Considerations During Severe Shortages](#)

This seven-page document, updated on April 6, 2020, summarizes World Health Organization recommendations for the rational use of personal protective equipment (PPE) for novel coronavirus (COVID-19), in health care and community settings, including the handling of cargo. It also assesses the current disruption of the global supply chain and considerations for decision-making during severe shortages of PPE.

[Water and COVID-19 FAQs: Information about Drinking Water, Recreational Water, and Wastewater](#)

This web page, updated on April 3, 2020, provides answers to frequently asked questions about water transmission and COVID-19. Topics include the possible spread of COVID-19 through drinking water, pools, hot tubs, and sewage systems; and the precautions wastewater workers should take to protect themselves.

[List N: EPA’s Registered Antimicrobial Products for Use Against Novel Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2](#)

This interactive web page, updated on April 2, 2020, provides an expanded list of over 360 EPA-registered disinfectant products that have qualified for use against SARS-CoV-2, the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19. It has enhanced functionality to allow users to sort these products by surface type and use site. Note: Inclusion on this list does not constitute an endorsement by EPA. Additional disinfectants may meet the criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2. EPA will update this list with additional products as needed.

[COVID-19 and Food Safety: Guidance for Food Businesses](#)

There is now an urgent requirement for the food industry to ensure compliance with measures to protect food workers from contracting COVID-19, to prevent exposure to or transmission of the virus, and to strengthen food hygiene and sanitation practices. The purpose of the guidelines in this six-page document is to highlight these additional measures so that the integrity of the food chain is maintained, and that adequate and safe food supplies are available for consumers.

[Practical Considerations and Recommendations for Religious Leaders and Faith-Based Communities in the Context of COVID-19](#)

This six-page document and risk assessment tool provides practical guidance and recommendations to support the special role of religious leaders, faith-based organizations, and faith communities in COVID-19 education, preparedness, and response. Religious leaders, faith-based organizations, and faith communities can play a major role in saving lives and reducing illness related to COVID-19. By sharing clear, evidence-based steps to prevent COVID-19, religious-inspired institutions can promote helpful information, prevent and reduce fear and stigma, provide reassurance to people in their communities, and promote health-saving practices.

Project Air Bridge Established to Expedite Medical Supplies

Through Project Air Bridge, FEMA is expediting movement of critical supplies, in varying quantities from the global market to medical distributors in various locations across the US. The air bridge was created to reduce the time it takes for US medically supply distributors to receive personal protective equipment and other critical supplies into the country for their respective customers. FEMA covers the cost to fly supplies into the US from overseas factories, reducing shipment time from weeks to days. For more information on the Supply Chain Task Force and response efforts to COVID-19, visit the [FEMA website](#).

FEMA Alert System Helps Authorities Reach Their Communities Quickly

FEMA's [Integrated Public Alert and Warning System \(IPAWS\)](#) gives communities a way to quickly send emergency alerts when minutes matter. More than 1,400 state, local, tribal, and territorial partners use this national system for sending local alerts to television, radio, and cell phones in targeted areas. Emergency officials across the country are using IPAWS to send important safety messages on the coronavirus pandemic to residents.

FEMA Maintains 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](#).

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 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 Publishes Stakeholder Feedback for New Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Program

The [Hazard Mitigation Assistance](#) program recently published the [Summary of Stakeholder Feedback](#) online. The 72-page summary provides an in-depth review of the comments FEMA received during its 2019 stakeholder [engagement process](#). The summary is intended to help develop the new Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program. Input is included from federal, state, tribal and territorial stakeholders, as well as local partners, and members of the general public about the challenges they face in implementing mitigation projects. Recommendations also are included on how BRIC can be responsive to hazard mitigation needs at all levels of government. To learn more about the BRIC grant program, visit the [FEMA website](#).

FEMA Releases Updated Flood Insurance Manual

FEMA released an updated edition of the [NFIP Flood Insurance Manual](#), effective Apr. 1. The manual is updated twice a year to enhance the customer experience. This updated edition of the Flood Insurance Manual does not change flood insurance coverage or supersede the terms and conditions of the Standard Flood Insurance Policy.

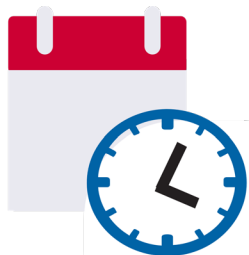
FEMA Recruits Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

Thousands of Peace Corps volunteers have been released from service due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. FEMA asks these volunteers to continue their public service and join the agency's mission. FEMA has full-time and intermittent positions available in a variety of fields. Peace Corps volunteers can use their skills and experience engaging diverse communities worldwide to help people before, during, and after disasters here at home.

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](#)

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](#).

FEMA Funding Notice Available for SAFER Grants

The Notice of Funding Opportunity is now available for \$350 million in [Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response \(SAFER\) Grants](#). The SAFER grant enhances the ability of recipients to attain and maintain fire department staffing and to ensure that their communities have adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards. The application period opened on April 13 and will close May 15, 2020 at 5:00 pm ET.

Free Emotional Support Helpline for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals During COVID-19

Sign language users can communicate with
ACCESS of St. Joseph's Health in Paterson

Call

973-870-0677 VP

Monday to Friday 9 am - 5 pm



New Jersey Division of the
Deaf and Hard of Hearing

New Jersey Division of Mental
Health and Addiction Services



St. Joseph's Health