



FEMA

Region II

April 28, 2020
Volume 5, Issue 12

Special
COVID-19
Edition!

Preparedness and Resilience Bulletin: Empowering People and Communities



Keep Calm and Avoid Coronavirus Scams

Here Are Five Things You Can Do to Avoid a Coronavirus Scam:



Ignore offers for vaccinations and home test kits.

- Scammers are selling products to treat or prevent COVID-19 without proof that they work.



Hang up on robocalls.

- Scammers use illegal sales calls to get your money and your personal information.



Watch out for phishing emails and text messages.

- Don't click on links in emails or texts you didn't expect.



Research before you donate.

- Don't let anyone rush you into making a donation. Get tips on donating wisely at ftc.gov/charity.



Stay in the know.

- Go to ftc.gov/coronavirus for the latest information on scams. Sign up to get FTC's alerts at ftc.gov/subscribe.

If you see a scam, report it to ftc.gov/complaint.



FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
PROTECTING AMERICA'S CONSUMERS

Cloth Face Covering Do's & Don'ts:

DO:



- ✓ Make sure you can breathe through it
- ✓ Wear it whenever going out in public
- ✓ Make sure it covers your nose and mouth
- ✓ Wash after using

DON'T:

- ✗ Use on children under age 2
- ✗ Use surgical masks or other personal protective equipment (PPE) intended for healthcare workers



cdc.gov/coronavirus

Webinars

Upcoming Region II Webinars



The Importance of Planning and Best Practices for Houses of Worship

Wednesday, April 29, 2020 from 1 PM – 2:30 PM ET

Please join the Region II National Preparedness Division webinar specifically for Houses of Worship and Faith-Based organizations.

During this webinar guest speakers Peter Gudaitis, executive director of the New York Disaster Interfaith Services and Keith Adams, executive director of the New Jersey Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters will discuss the importance of emergency operations and continuity planning for houses of worships and faith-based organizations.

Best practices for performing essential functions and continuing their missions to serve congregants during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic will be highlighted during the discussion.

Link to register: https://icpd.adobeconnect.com/r2_howcovid19/event/registration.html



Planning Considerations for Reconstitution

Thursday, April 30, 2020 from 12 PM - 1 PM ET

Please join the Region II National Preparedness Division for a webinar to learn about best practices for the reconstitution of operations to enable organizations to return to normal, or new normal after an incident.

FEMA National Continuity Programs can help you and your organization make informed decisions on how to plan for and return to operations once it is safe to do so. This info-sharing event will include what factors to consider and provide ideas on how to accomplish bringing resources back to the workplace while preserving the integrity of your essential functions.

Guest speaker Denise Chrosniak, a FEMA continuity training specialist, will provide guidance and best practices as it relates to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Link to register: <https://icpd.adobeconnect.com/r2planforreconstitution/>

Hurricane Preparedness Week
May 3-9, 2020

weather.gov/wm/hurricane-preparedness



Hurricane Season is Coming, Are You Prepared?

Wednesday, May 6, 2020 from 11 AM–12 PM ET

Please join the Region II National Preparedness Division for a National Hurricane Awareness Week webinar.

Matt Doody, a meteorologist and emergency response specialist at the National Weather Service Eastern Region Headquarters, will provide a brief overview of hurricane meteorology. The presentation will then transition to aspects of information gathering and preparedness for all end users. While the primary focus will be on hurricanes and preparedness please bring any questions you may have for weather and safety.

Link to register: <https://icpd.adobeconnect.com/r2hurricaneawareness/event/registration.html>

Recently Recorded FEMA Region II Webinars

- [CERT - Effective Interpersonal Communications](#)
- [Protect and Manage Your Finances During Covid-19](#)
- [Managing the Emotional Consequences of Public Health Emergencies](#)
- [Continuity: Why You Should Care and How We Can Help?](#)
- [Trauma-Informed Management of People in Crisis](#)
- [Psychological First Aid for CERT](#)

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

Contact hduran@nydis.org for any questions

- [Public Health Emergency Plan Writing: COOP for NYC Congregations Webinar 05/05](#)
- [COVID-19 Pandemic: Crisis Spiritual Care for NYC Congregations 05/05](#)
- [COVID-19 Pandemic: Crisis Spiritual Care for Congregations 05/07](#)
- [Pandemic Virtual Exercise: Testing Your Plans 05/08](#)
- [COVID-19 Pandemic: Crisis Spiritual Care for Congregations 04/28](#)
- [Public Health Emergency Plan Writing: COOP for NYC Congregations Webinar 05/05](#)
- [COVID-19 Pandemic: Crisis Spiritual Care for NYC Congregations 05/05](#)
- [COVID-19 Pandemic: Crisis Spiritual Care for Congregations 05/07](#)
- [Pandemic Virtual Exercise: Testing Your Plans 05/08](#)

Weekly COVID-19 Informational Call

DOHMH and NYCEM will continue to host a weekly COVID-19 informational call every Thursday at 2 PM ET for community and faith leaders. This week, our guest speakers will discuss the CARES ACT, How to Help Your Neighbor and What You Need to Know About Unemployment Resources.

Meeting link: <https://nycem.webex.com/nycem/j.php?MTID=m854a501aa6705521a87b1083b1050bd6>

Meeting number (access code): 711 214 166

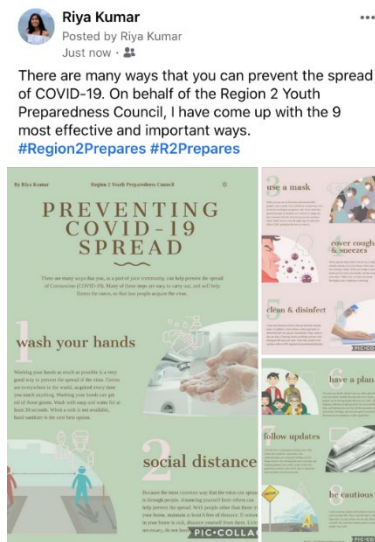
Meeting Password: community

Calendar invite: <https://oemnyc.sharefile.com/d-s9be2cbe519e493fa>

FEMA News

Spotlight: Youth Preparedness Council Member Promotes Preparedness using Social Messaging

With social distancing putting regular school, social activities, and daily life on hold, our regional Youth Preparedness Council (YPC) members have had to readjust every aspect of their life, including their role on our preparedness council. The Youth Preparedness Council supports FEMA's ongoing commitment to involve the youth of America in preparedness-related activities.



Typically, our Regional YPC members work on individual projects that promote preparedness, such as workshops and trainings on preparedness principles, putting emergency kits together and more. Our council members have now had to take their projects online. Our members are using their knowledge of preparedness and sharing it on their social networks using the hashtag #R2Prepares #Region2prepares. This is an exciting new way for them to engage with their communities. Council member Riya Kumar from New Jersey has created, and shared COVID-19 prevention messaging based on CDC guidance on her personal Instagram and Facebook pages.



FEMA Publishes Civil Rights Bulletin

FEMA published a [bulletin outlining best practices](#) to assist partners in anticipating and attending to civil rights concerns during the COVID-19 response and recovery. FEMA is working with state, local, tribal and territorial partners to ensure that distribution of supplies and other relief efforts are done in an impartial manner, without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. Under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Act, civil rights laws are protected during emergencies and cannot be waived.

FEMA Alerting System Used Over 240 Times During Coronavirus Response

Emergency officials across the country have sent nearly 250 important safety messages on the coronavirus pandemic to their residents using FEMA [Integrated Public Alert and Warning System](#) (IPAWS). As of early Tuesday April 21, 82 agencies across 27 states and the District of Columbia, as well as one Indian tribe and one U.S. territory, have sent a total of 241 messages. This includes 193 text alerts containing information on COVID-19 to cell phones and other wireless devices via the Wireless Emergency Alerts and 46 alerts to radios/televisions via the Emergency Alert System. For more information on IPAWS and how to be able to use the system to send alerts, visit the [FEMA website](#).

FEMA's mission is helping people before, during, and after disasters.

FEMA Announces \$200 Million to Emergency Food and Shelter Program

FEMA awarded \$200 million in supplemental funding to the National Board for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP). These funds were appropriated in the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act for local social service organizations providing emergency assistance to people experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, hunger or homelessness. These funds address a broad range of services, including mass shelter, mass feeding, food pantries and food banks, utility bill and rent/mortgage payments to prevent evictions or foreclosures and transition assistance from shelters to stable living conditions.

Best Practices Information Hub Created for Coronavirus Pandemic Response

FEMA has created a [Best Practices page](#) that compiles the most up-to-date, vital information in one central location for medical practitioners, emergency managers and other critical stakeholders. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is working with FEMA to collect and share best practices and lessons learned from the whole-of-America response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The information can help users learn from each other's approaches and apply solutions to current response and recovery operations.

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 Fact Sheet: Addressing PPE Needs in Non-Healthcare Setting

This guidance (attached to this bulletin) summarizes how the COVID-19 National Strategy for Addressing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Shortage seeks to ensure protection against COVID-19 for healthcare workers, first responders, and patients by implementing three pillars of practice: reduce, reuse and repurpose.

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>.

Covid-19 News

National Fire Incident Reporting System National COVID-19 Special Study

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) is using the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) to conduct a [national-level special study](#) on fire department responses to the new coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The goal of the study is to help fire departments consistently document fire department calls to suspected or confirmed incidents involving COVID-19.

Confirmation of COVID-19 in Two Pet Cats in New York

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) [announced the first confirmed cases of SARS-CoV-2 \(the virus that causes COVID-19\) infection in two pet cats](#). These are the first pets in the United States to test positive for SARS-CoV-2. The cats live in two separate areas of New York state. Both had mild respiratory illness and are expected to make a full recovery. SARS-CoV-2 infections have been reported in very few animals worldwide, mostly in those that had close contact with a person with COVID-19.

US Department of Housing and Urban Development Awards \$1.5 Million in Funding to Support COVID-19-Related Fair Housing Activities

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced it is awarding [\\$1.5 million in Partnership and Special Enforcement Effort funds](#) to HUD Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP) agencies to support COVID-19 education activities. The funds are being provided through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) of 2020, which President Donald Trump signed into law to provide federal agencies with the resources needed to combat COVID-19.

NIH to Launch Public-Private Partnership to Speed COVID-19 Vaccine and Treatment Options

The National Institutes of Health and the Foundation for the NIH (FNIH) are bringing together more than a dozen leading biopharmaceutical companies, the Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the European Medicines Agency to develop an international strategy for a coordinated research response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

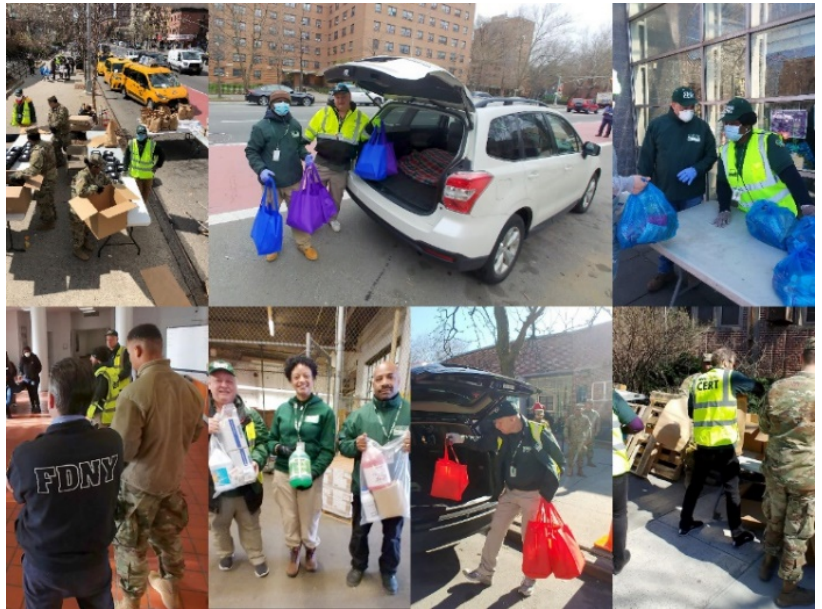
CERT (and other Volunteers) Corner

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: NYC CERT

In response to COVID-19, CERT volunteers have deployed to support the City of New York with the following volunteer projects:

- A canvassing operation with the Department of Aging to ensure proper COVID-19 guidance was available at congregate senior centers.
- Distributing and tracking sanitation supplies for early childhood and childcare centers at the Department of Education distribution sites.
- Data entry and collection, storage and handling, and food distribution staff at citywide Food Distribution Points.
- No contact food distribution in partnership with the Roosevelt Island Disabled Association for vulnerable populations.
- NYCHA pop-up food distribution for residents.
- Phone banking to hotels in effort to build hotel capacity citywide.
- Internally, CERTs have been encouraged to check-in on fellow CERTs, friends and family via text, call or email and stay connected to support one another as we battle this global health event.



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;
- Created list of open essential businesses in communities;
- Controlling the flow of traffic into screening areas, collecting information for County Health Department;
- A Canvassing operation with the Department of the Aging to ensure proper COVID-19 guidance was available at congregate senior centers;
- Distributing and tracking sanitation supplies for early childhood and childcare centers at the Department of Education distribution sites;
- Data entry and collection, storage and handling and food distribution staff at citywide Food Distribution Points;
- No contact food distribution in partnership with the Roosevelt Island Disabled Association for vulnerable populations;
- Deployed CERT members at PATH and transit terminals distributing COVID-19 prevention strategies;
- Established city regulations regarding essential business operations, closures, and restrictions;
- Implemented Incident Command System, Emergency Operations Center, and CERT hotline;
- EOC set up;
- Special Needs Weekly Calls to over 600 residents;
- Paramus Food Pantry - Meal Delivery to over 140 residents;
- Essential Business Resource - Created list of open essential businesses in their community (location, hours, email, services provided, take out, delivery and phone number);

- NYCHA Pop-up food distribution for residents;
- Phone Banking to hotels in effort to build hotel capacity citywide;
- Internally, CERTs have been encouraged to check-in on fellow CERTS, friends and family via text, call or email and stay connected to support one another as we battle this global health event;
- 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;
- 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 helpnjnow.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.

Helpful Information and Resources

How to Help

- **New Jersey:** We need the help of qualified health, mental health, and related professionals to supplement our health care capacity on a temporary basis. Submit a form for the [Healthcare Professional Call to Serve](#) if you are willing and able to support New Jersey's response to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- **New York City:** The City of New York is seeking licensed healthcare workers to support healthcare facility needs during this challenging time. NYC's Volunteer Coordination Task Force is also seeking volunteers to help address the needs of those most affected by COVID-19. For more information, visit the [Help Now NYC Volunteer site](#).
- **New York State:**
 - New York State is seeking medical volunteers to help with the COVID-19 response. Additionally, if you have any goods, services, or space for use in New York's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, visit the [NY DOH website](#) for how you can 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](#).
- Trained medical volunteers can offer their services by registering with a National VOAD member on [nvoad.org](#). Licensed medical volunteers can offer their services by registering with the [Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals](#).
- To sell medical supplies or equipment to the federal government, businesses can register through the [System for Award Management](#) (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.
 - 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](#).

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.

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 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [SAMHSA's COVID-19 Guidance and Resources](#)
- 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>
- [Recommended Guidance for Extended Use and Limited Reuse of N95 Filtering Facepiece Respirators in Healthcare Settings](#)
- 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](#) - See what government agencies are doing in response to COVID-19.

Resources in Other Languages



CDC has recently added more translations to its COVID-19 website. You can now find information in:

- [Spanish](#),
- [Chinese](#),
- [Vietnamese](#), and
- [Korean](#).

Additional Pages will be translated in the coming weeks. Digital versions of some print resources are also available in [other languages](#). In addition, CDC has developed videos about COVID-19 in [American Sign Language](#).

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.namincymetro.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.
 - Directory of Community Mutual Aid Networks:
<https://patch.com/new-york/new-york-city/coronavirus-nyc-directory-community-mutual-aid-networks>
 - 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.
- 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.

English: https://nj.gov/humanservices/documents/covid/Corona%20Virus%20Card%20-%202%20up-RB_v2.pdf

Spanish: https://nj.gov/humanservices/library/slides/Corona%20Virus%20Card%20-%202%20up-RB_v2-SP.pdf

- **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.

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-366a Planning for the Needs of Children in Disasters**
- **IS-394a Protecting Your Home or Small Business from Disaster**
- **IS-909 Community Preparedness: Implementing Simple Activities for Everyone**
- **IS-2905 Coordinating Health and Social Services Recovery**
- **IS-0029 Public Information Officer Awareness**
- **IS-2900a National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF) Overview**

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



Emergency Management Higher Education Program Webinar Series

Strategies and Solutions for On-line Teaching

This recorded webinar provides information for higher education academic faculty teaching in emergency management, homeland security, and related fields about the transition to online teaching. Specific to the difficulties of teaching during the time of COVID-19, resources and tips are provided on how to make the most of online teaching.

Must Reads



Addressing Human Rights as Key to the COVID-19 Response

This four-page document brings to attention key health and human rights considerations with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic. It highlights the importance of integrating a human rights-based approach in response to COVID-19. It provides key considerations in relation to addressing stigma and discrimination; prevention of violence against women; support for vulnerable populations; quarantine and restrictive measures; and shortages of supplies and equipment.

Ethics and COVID-19: Resource Allocation and Priority-Setting

This five-page policy brief answers a number of questions about the ethics of setting priorities for the allocation of resources during times of scarcity, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Such decisions may include access to hospitals, ventilators, vaccines, and medicines. The document provides a high-level ethical framework that can be used to guide decision-making, and complements WHO's technical guidance.

Decontamination & Reuse of Filtering Facepiece Respirators

Disposable filtering facepiece respirators (FFRs) are not approved for routine decontamination and reuse as standard of care. However, FFR decontamination and reuse may need to be considered as a crisis capacity strategy to ensure continued availability. Based on the limited research available, ultraviolet germicidal irradiation, vaporous hydrogen peroxide, and moist heat showed the most promise as potential methods to decontaminate FFRs. This document summarizes research about decontamination of FFRs before reuse.

Use of Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) in Patients with COVID-19

This review assesses the effects of prior and current use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) in patients with acute viral respiratory infections, such as COVID-19, on acute severe adverse events (including mortality, acute respiratory distress syndrome, acute organ failure, and opportunistic infections), on acute health care utilization (including hospitalization, intensive care unit admission, supplemental oxygen therapy, and mechanical ventilation), as well as on quality of life and long-term survival.

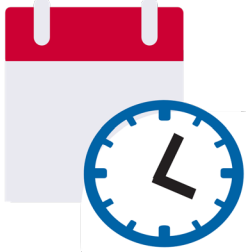
Violence Against Women During COVID-19

This web page provides answers to 13 questions about violence against women during COVID-19. Topics include: How does COVID-19 increase risks of violence for women?; Home is not a safe place for me - what can I do?; and I am a healthcare worker/policymaker - what can I do to prevent and address violence against women during COVID-19?

Safe Ramadan Practices in the Context of COVID-19

This three-page guidance document highlights public health advice during the COVID-19 pandemic for social and religious practices and gatherings during Ramadan that can be applied across different national contexts.

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](#).

DHS/FEMA Modifies HSGP Application Submission Requirements

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced modifications to this year's Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) application submission requirements as a result of the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. FEMA recognizes that state, local, tribal, and territorial partners have reprioritized scarce resources to the COVID-19 pandemic response, reducing their ability to fulfill existing application submission requirements before the application deadline on Apr. 30. For questions, contact the [Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk](#) or FEMA HQ preparedness officers.

FEMA Funding Notice Available for Cooperating Technical Partners Program (CTP) Grants

The application period is now open for the [Cooperating Technical Partners Program](#). There is \$102.5 million in funding available. These grants support the mission and objectives of the National Flood Insurance Program through FEMA's flood hazard identification and risk assessment programs.

Apply on [Grants.gov](#) by May 1. Applications must be submitted to the opportunity number for the state in each [FEMA Region](#). For questions, contact [Cooperative Technical Partner program](#).

Public Comment Period Open for Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Proposed Policy

A proposed policy is now available for comments for the new Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program. Stakeholders may view the policy and provide new comments until May

11. To locate the new policy, visit [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) and search the identification number **FEMA-2019-0018**. To learn more, visit the [FEMA website](https://www.fema.gov).

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 will close May 15, 2020 at 5:00 pm ET.

FEMA Funding Notice Available for Fire Prevention and Safety Grants

The Notice of Funding Opportunity is now available for \$35 million in Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) grants. The FP&S grant supports projects that enhance the safety of the public and firefighters from fire and related hazards within the areas of fire prevention and firefighter safety research and development. The application period opens Monday, April 27 and closes at 5 p.m. ET on Friday, May 29.

The FP&S Notice of Funding Opportunity is available for download on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) and the [FEMA website](https://www.fema.gov). Fire departments and other applicants requiring assistance should email the AFG Help Desk or call the help desk at 1-866-274-0960 during business hours, Monday through Friday.