



FEMA

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Preparedness and Resilience Bulletin: Empowering People and Communities

Special
COVID-19
Edition!



GUIDELINES

OPENING UP AMERICA AGAIN

President Trump has unveiled Guidelines for Opening Up America Again, a three-phased approach based on the advice of public health experts. These steps will help state and local officials when reopening their economies, getting people back to work, and continuing to protect American lives.

[Criteria](#)

[Phase One](#)

[Phase Two](#)

[Phase Three](#)

Donate COVID-19 Plasma



If you have fully recovered from COVID-19, you may be able to help patients currently fighting the infection by donating your plasma.

Because you fought the infection, your plasma now contains COVID-19 antibodies. These antibodies provided one way for your immune system to fight the virus when you were sick, so your plasma may be able to be used to help others fight off the disease.

What is Convalescent Plasma?

Convalescent plasma is the liquid part of blood that is collected from patients who have recovered from the novel coronavirus disease, COVID-19, caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2. COVID-19 patients develop antibodies in the blood against the virus. Antibodies are proteins that might help fight the infection. Convalescent plasma is being investigated for the treatment of COVID-19 because there is no approved treatment for this disease and there is some information that suggests it might help some patients recover from COVID-19.

I Have Fully Recovered from COVID-19. Am I Eligible to Donate Plasma?

People who have fully recovered from COVID-19 for at least two weeks are encouraged to consider donating plasma, which may help save the lives of other patients. COVID-19 convalescent plasma must only be collected from recovered individuals if they are eligible to donate blood. Individuals must have had a prior diagnosis of COVID-19 documented by a laboratory test and meet other donor criteria. Individuals must have complete resolution of symptoms for at least 28 days before they donate, or alternatively have no symptoms for at least 14 days prior to donation and have a negative lab test for active COVID-19 disease.

How Can I Donate Convalescent Plasma?

Several resources are available regarding options to donate convalescent plasma in your area. To learn more and find the site nearest you:

- [AABB External Link Disclaimer](#)
- [America's Blood Centers External Link Disclaimer](#)
- [American Red Cross External Link Disclaimer](#)
- [Blood Centers of America External Link Disclaimer](#)
- [CoVIg-19 Plasma Alliance External Link Disclaimer](#)
- [Flyer: Consider Donating Blood Plasma External Link Disclaimer](#) (Houston Methodist)
- [National COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma Project External Link Disclaimer](#)
- [Plasma Protein Therapeutics Association](#)

I Haven't Had COVID-19. What Can I Do to Help?

You can consider donating blood! One blood donation can save up to three lives. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented challenges to the U.S. blood supply. Donor centers have experienced a dramatic reduction in donations due to the implementation of social distancing and the cancellation of blood drives. Blood is needed every day to provide lifesaving treatments to a variety of patients. You can help ensure that blood continues to be available for patients by finding a blood donor center near you to schedule your donation. Several sites also have information about donating plasma.

- [AABB External Link Disclaimer](#)
- [America's Blood Centers External Link Disclaimer](#)
- [American Red Cross External Link Disclaimer](#)
- [Armed Services Blood Program External Link Disclaimer](#)
- [Blood Centers of America](#)

Source: FDA



Webinars

Spotlight: The Importance of Planning for Houses of Worship and Best Practices Webinar

In support of National and Regional strategic goals, The FEMA Region II National Preparedness Division hosted a webinar titled “**The Importance of Planning for Houses of Worship and Best Practices**”. The national discussion was held on April 29, 2020, with Deborah Costa, Region II Preparedness Liaison, facilitating the hyper-engaged discussion which garnered 1,463 participants from 26 different states, two (2) Territories and the District of Columbia.

Jumpstarting this national conversation was Kevin Smith, Director of The DHS Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships with his pitch-perfect comments reminding the audience the vital role houses of worship have always played and continue to play in forging resilient communities. Ehtasham “Izzy” Chaudhry, New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness Officer followed highlighting the critical work of the all-inclusive Interfaith Advisory Council of New Jersey – a body of 3,500+ members from every religion and sect.

Peter Gudaitis, Executive Director of New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS), the first of two keynote speakers, rendered a presentation on the importance of emergency operation planning as he showcased the all-encompassing efforts of NYDIS serving the most vulnerable of populations in New York City and beyond.

The program then switched gears to highlight the innovative work of The Reverend Dr. Miriam Burnett, medical doctor and Pastor of Jones Tabernacle African Methodist Episcopal church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Pastor Burnett had a pandemic plan in-place before COVID-19 virus and subsequent “stay-at-home” orders seen instituted by governors across the Nation. Due to Dr. Burnett’s wealth of experience with emergency operation planning in the Faith community, webinar planners have scheduled a follow-up webinar for May 12, 2020.

The second keynote speaker, Keith Adams, Executive Director of New Jersey Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (NJVOAD) discussed the importance of continuity of operations planning and took a deep-dive into each respective component of the NJVOAD’s Continuity Training for non-profits and faith communities.

To closeout this well-rounded inclusive conversation, Gurminder Singh, Global Director of Humanitarian Aid for The National United Sikhs discussed the overall Mission and organizational make-up. He highlighted their previous collaborative efforts with local governments and went on to discuss protocols they set in place which gave the larger body the ability to adapt quickly in the COVID-19 latent environment. Zoom, Youtube, Facebook Live and broadcast television were resources utilized to continue their daily religious activities. In closing, Gurminder reminded us all the importance of working together and expressed his gratitude for our collective collaborative efforts.

Upcoming Region II Webinars



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>



Avoiding Financial Scams During COVID-19

Tuesday, May 12, 2020 from 12:30-1:30 ET (Spanish Delivery)

Wednesday, May 13, 2020 from 12 PM – 1 PM ET (English)

Please join the Region II National Preparedness Division for a webinar to learn how to identify and avoid financial scams related to COVID-19.

Learn how scammers are using COVID-19 to take advantage of people and how you can respond and report scams to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). Cristina Miranda from the FTC will provide information and an overview of available resources to help you identify and avoid scams.

Link to register: <https://icpd.adobeconnect.com/avoidscams covid19/event/registration.html>



Planning Considerations for Reconstitution

Thursday, May 14, 2020 from 12 PM – 1 PM ET

Spanish
Delivery

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 Jose R. Marchand-Parnell, will provide guidance and best practices as it relates to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Link to register: <https://icpd.adobeconnect.com/r2planning4restitutionspanish/event/registration.html>



Helping Helpers

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 from 6 PM – 7:30 PM ET

Please join the FEMA Region II National Preparedness Division for a webinar designed to help strengthen responder resilience.

Times of crisis can be frightening, life-altering and trying, but they can also bring out the best in people. Disaster plans primarily focus on how to help crisis survivors, but who's helping the helpers? The police, first responders and CERTs who help people get back on their feet after a disaster need help too.

Members from FEI Workforce, a company with a long history in enhancing workforce resiliency, will offer insights on how to support your community.

Link to register: <https://icpd.adobeconnect.com/r2certhelpers/event/registration.html>



Helping Children Cope During COVID-19

Wednesday, May 20, 2020 from 3 PM – 4 PM ET

Spanish
Delivery

Please join the Region II National Preparedness Division for a webinar to learn how to help children cope during the stressful experience of COVID-19.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought out emotional reactions in children that may be difficult to cope with. In this webinar, we will discuss strategies and activities to promote positive coping in children. This webinar will feature guest speaker, Dr. Ivelisse Morales Rodriguez from Americares Puerto Rico, and it will be delivered in Spanish.

Link to register: <https://icpd.adobeconnect.com/r2helpkidscopecovid19/event/registration.html>

Recently Recorded FEMA Region II Webinars

- [Planning Considerations for Reconstitution](#) English
- [The Importance of Planning and Best Practices for Houses of Worship](#)
- [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.

NOAA Lecture Series: You Don't Know What You Don't Know

Thursdays, from 3 PM – 4 PM ET

The NOAA Office of Response & Restoration is trying a weekly lecture series via Adobe Connect that we are calling, "You Don't Know What You Don't Know." It will be an hour long presentation (complete with questions & answers) on a variety of topics presented by experts from around the country and beyond. We will be talking about oil in ice, in-situ burning, natural resources, remote sensing, and more. Speakers will be from government, academia and industry. Attendance is open to all.



Link to register: <https://noaaorr.adobeconnect.com/orrlectureseries/>



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

Register: nydisnet.eventbrite

Contact hduran@nydis.org for any questions

- **PLAN WRITING: CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS PLAN (COOP)**
 - NYC Only: Tuesday, May 5, 9:30am-12:00pm
 - Open to All: Tuesday, May 12, 2pm-4:30pm
 - NYC Only: Tuesday, May 19, 9:30am-12:00pm
 - Open to All: Tuesday, May 26, 2pm-4:30pm
- **COVID-19 PANDEMIC: CRISIS SPIRITUAL CARE FOR CONGREGATIONS**
 - NYC Only: Thursdays, 10:00am-12:00pm May 5 May 12 May 19 May 26
 - Open to All: Thursdays, 2:00pm-4:00pm May 7 May 14 May 21 May 28
- **PANDEMIC VIRTUAL EXERCISE: TESTING YOUR PLANS**
 - Open to All: Friday, May 8, 10:00am-12:00pm
 - Open to All: Friday, May 22, 10:00am-12:00pm

Weekly COVID-19 Informational Call

DOHMH and NYCCEM 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

Planning Considerations for Organizations in Reconstituting Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic

In these uncertain times, organizations across the nation are grappling with when and how to resume operations while protecting the well-being and safety of their employees and communities. Many organizations will be returning to a new normal and are asking: When is it safe to bring people back? Do we need to modify how we operate? How do we keep our employees, customers and community safe? How do we maintain a safe and sanitary environment?

An organization may need to adapt and adopt new processes, address physical and psychological impacts to personnel, recover records and files, reestablish communications and IT equipment, or acquire specialized equipment to regain full functionality. Planning for reconstitution requires expertise and coordination from the entire organization and coordination with partners and stakeholders throughout the community.

The FEMA Fact Sheet for this guidance is attached as a pdf to this week's Region II Preparedness and Resilience Bulletin.

Reconstitution Guidance from National Center for State Courts:

<https://www.ncsc.org/~media/Files/PDF/Newsroom/Coronavirus%20Webinars/Considerations-in-Resuming-Court-Operations.ashx>

FEMA Publishes Notices on Allocating Scarce Resources

FEMA recently published a Temporary Final Rule and supplemental notice in the Federal Register to support President Trump's "[Memorandum on Allocating Certain Scarce or Threatened Health and Medical Resources to Domestic Use](#)" issued on April 3. FEMA is working with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to implement the allocation order through the [Temporary Final Rule](#) published on April 10. Personal Protective Equipment subject to this allocation order includes: N95 respirators, a variety of other filtering respirators, air-purifying respirators, surgical masks and surgical gloves.

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 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 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](https://www.coronavirus.gov).

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>.

Blue Angels and Thunderbirds Fly Over New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania to Salute Coronavirus Responders

The military's elite flight demonstration squadrons – the Navy's Blue Angels and the Air Force's Thunderbirds – flew in what is being called a “collaborative salute” to honor those battling the COVID-19 pandemic. Twelve fighter jets streaked over NY, NJ, and PA on April 28th as a booming “Thank You” to the people keeping our communities safe. The Department Defense said that this showcase, called “America Strong”, is intended to bring Americans together to fight the spread of the coronavirus, with more multi-city flyovers in hard-hit cities planned over the next two weeks.



Source: Michael Loccisano, Getty Images

NYC Emergency Management Announces NYC COVID-19 Pet Hotline to Provide Support for Animals of People Affected by Coronavirus

The New York City Emergency Management Department and the Mayor's Office of Animal Welfare today announced the launch of the NYC COVID-19 Pet Hotline. The Pet Hotline will serve as an information, planning, referral and service coordination hub for NYC residents who need support for their pets during the COVID-19 pandemic. Pet Hotline operators can be reached directly at 877-204-8821, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. The Pet Hotline will help mitigate people's questions and concerns about keeping their pets during the COVID-19 crisis, as well as connect callers to pet relief resources such as subsidized emergency veterinary care and food and supply distribution services.

CDC Recommends Social Distancing for Pets After Some Test Positive

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is [recommending people follow the same social distancing guidelines with their pets](#) as they would human family members after a small number of animals, including dogs and cats, were reportedly infected with the virus that causes COVID-19. [CDC guidelines](#) recommend people restrict their pets from interacting with other animals when outside their house and urge people to keep cats indoors when possible and to walk dogs on a leash while maintaining at least six feet from other people and animals.

Music “Memorial For Us All” Series: Remembering Lives Lost to COVID-19

NYDIS has collaborated with Lincoln Center, the NYC Office of the Mayor, and many other religious organizations to sponsor the Memorial For Us All online memorial concert series, debuting with an original composition written and performed by Wynston Marsalis. This series began on May 3rd and will run on May 10, 17, and 24 at 6:00 pm ET streamed by Lincoln Center and its multi-faith partners on all social media platforms. Music unlocks thoughts, feelings, our souls, and the memories that unite and free us. These memorials will allow music to begin to heal, as it has done since the beginning of human history.

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: Passaic County Medical Reserve Corps

The Passaic County Medical Reserve Corps has been managing and operating a COVID-19 testing facility. Sandy Cameron supervises operations at the Passaic County COVID testing facility and also manages a group of over four-hundred volunteers. She helped put the testing site together from the beginning. When asked if she was surprised by the number of people volunteering to work with patients and a deadly virus, she said that “when you have the volunteer spirit, you don’t think about the deadliness of the virus, you think about your neighbor, how you can save a life and how you can make a difference in your community”.



Source: tapinto.net



Source: tapinto.net

One volunteer consistently praised is Dr. Abubakr “Abu” Alfaouri, or more affectionately known as “Doc Baker”. He had just graduated from medical school and was supposed to take his last medical exam before residency, but the testing centers were closed because of the coronavirus, motivating him to volunteer and serve at the testing facility. He has taken a leadership role at the testing site, supervising collectors and handlers and sick patients.

Dr. Sybille Wallace, a retired pediatric neurosurgeon, is an 82-year-old volunteer at the COVID testing site. Due to her age, she is considered part of the ‘at-risk’ population, but when asked about why she wanted to

volunteer, she stated “when I was a teenager, I read a philosopher that said ‘Human means to carry responsibility. To feel responsible at the site of need.’ In this situation, I felt I had to do something...so I responded”.

Spotlight: Warren County Medical Reserve Corps

Warren County has opened a [new drive-through testing site](#) for coronavirus. The testing site is intended “to reduce the burden on the already stressed healthcare system,” Freeholder James Kern III said in a news release, by providing more opportunities for county residents to get tested through a community-based testing site.

Only residents of Warren County may get tested, and they must first be screened and approved by a St. Luke's University Health Network physician. Patients with a St. Luke's primary care physician can call there directly. If a resident's primary care physician is in another hospital network, like Atlantic Health System or Hunterdon Healthcare System, they should call St. Luke's Warren Hills Family Practice at 908-847-3100. One of the smallest counties in New Jersey, Warren County set up the testing site without state or federal assistance. “Our people stepped up to the plate,” county Administrator Alex Lazorisak said, pointing out that *FEMA’s mission is helping people before, during, and after disasters.*

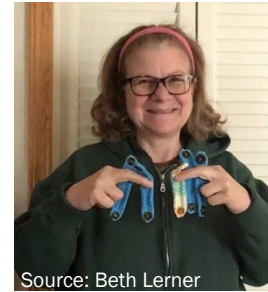


Source: LehighValleyLive.com

Warren has a quarter of the staff and resources of other counties that have begun testing programs. There is no fee, as Warren County is covering the cost of testing.

NJ MRC COVID-19 Pandemic Activities include:

- Operating or supporting drive-thru COVID-19 test sites;
- Staffing public call centers/phone banks/hotlines;
- Assisting local health departments by answering office telephones;
- Warehouse/logistics/movement of resources;
- Respirator fit testing;
- Case investigation/contact tracing/callbacks of negative test results;
- Community education and outreach;
- Staffing healthcare facilities during surge;
- Evacuation of residents from one nursing home/assisted living facility due to Coronavirus outbreak;
- Assisting local food banks/food pantries/other non-profits with assembling food bags/meal boxes for distribution or curbside “grab and go”;
- Delivering groceries and supplies to vulnerable populations including senior citizens and individuals with mobility or transportation issues;
- Making face shields or face masks for use at a local first aid station and hospital;
- Telephone wellness checks.



MRC member Andrea Levine is crocheting mask extenders and donating them to the First Aid Squad, and hospital staff.

Source: Beth Lerner

CERT COVID-19 Pandemic Activities include:

- 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 EOC and sign ins for EOC center;
- Controlling traffic flow into screening areas and collecting information for County Health Department;
- 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 and Essential Business Resource regarding essential business operations, closures, and restrictions;
- Special Needs Weekly Calls to over 600 residents;
- Paramus Food Pantry - Meal Delivery to over 140 residents;
- 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;
- 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;
- Created 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;
- 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, staff at citywide Food Distribution Points;
- 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;
- 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.

NY and NJ VOAD COVID-19 Pandemic Activities include:

- 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 for NJOEM;
- Coordinating with FEMA and State VALs regularly;
- Providing a situational report listing volunteer services and resources available 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 to match community needs to resources 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.
- 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 is available for anyone experiencing distress. 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.
- [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 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](#)
 - 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.



NYC COVID-19 Pet Hotline

Call (877) 204-8821
if you are a NYC pet owner impacted by COVID-19 and need assistance.

Pet hotline is open 7 days per week 8AM to 8PM ET.
Please note that this hotline is being provided for informational purposes only, and a call does not create an agreement to provide services.

ANIMAL PLANNING TASK FORCE
NYC Emergency Management

Logos for partner organizations: ASPCA, Animal Care Centers of NYC, The Humane Society of the United States, American Red Cross, NYC, BIDEA, NYCERT, PAWS-NY, and others.

- 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.
 - New Jersey Department of Children and Families has material intended to support families during these challenging times at <https://www.nj.gov/dcf/news/publications/covid19.html>
 - 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: [Mental Health Videophone support](#) available to assist sign language users during COVID-19 outbreak
 - NJ Department of Human Services: [Aging and Disability Resource Connection/Area Agency on Aging \(ADRC/AAA\)](#)
 - 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-%20202%20up-RB_v2.pdf
Spanish: https://nj.gov/humanservices/library/slides/Corona%20Virus%20Card%20-%20202%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

L-550 Continuity of Operations Planner's Workshop – Virtual Training

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.



Participant Information:

- Complete course prerequisites on the [EMI website](#)
 - IS-546 and IS-547, OR IS-1300
- For course credit, obtain a [FEMA Student Identification \(SID\)](#)
- All course materials will be shared through email.

This course will take place May 19-22, 2020 (four half-days), 8 AM – 12 PM. Register by Friday, May 15 to jose.marchandparnell@fema.dhs.gov or 202-679-5847.

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-10a Animals in Disasters: Awareness and Preparedness**
- **IS-247a Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)**
- **IS-271a Anticipating Hazardous Weather & Community Risk**
- **IS-1010 Emergency Protective Measures**

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

CDC Learning Connections

Stay informed about quality online trainings from CDC, other federal agencies, and federally funded partners with [CDC Learning Connection](#). CDC Learning Connection helps public health and healthcare professionals stay informed about quality trainings from CDC, other federal agencies, and federally funded partners.

Must Reads



Strengthening Preparedness for COVID-19 in Cities and Urban Settings: Interim Guidance for Local Authorities

This 20-page document was created to support local authorities, leaders, and policymakers in cities and other urban settlements in identifying effective approaches and implementing recommended actions that enhance the prevention, preparedness, and readiness for COVID-19 in urban settings, to ensure a robust response and eventual recovery.

“Immunity Passports” in the Context of COVID-19

Some governments have suggested that the detection of antibodies to the SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, could serve as the basis for an “immunity passport” or “risk-free certificate” that would enable individuals to travel or to return to work assuming that they are protected against re-infection. This two-page document discusses how at this point in the pandemic, there is not enough evidence about the effectiveness of antibody-mediated immunity to guarantee the accuracy of an “immunity passport” or “risk-free certificate.”

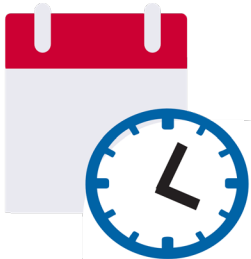
Surgical Mask and Gown Conservation Strategies – Letter to Healthcare Providers

This web page provides surgical mask and gown conservation strategies for healthcare organizations and personnel categorized for a range of needs and supply levels, and are intended to assist healthcare organizations as they determine operating procedures during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak. These strategies do not cover N95 respirators and are not limited to use in the care of patients infected with COVID-19.

FEMA Higher Education Newsletter

The newsletter may contain information regarding Hi Ed website updates, scholarship opportunities, emergency management articles and journals, and other items of interest to the emergency management academic community.

Deadlines and Cancellations



[ASFPM 2020 Annual National Conference Going Virtual June 9-11, 2020](#)

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

[National Summit on School Safety Postponed Until October 8-9, 2020](#)

[2020 National VOAD Conference Canceled](#)

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 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.