



FEMA

Region II

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Preparedness and Resilience Bulletin: Empowering People and Communities



How to Safely Wear and Take Off a Cloth Face Covering

Wear your face covering correctly.

- Wash your hands before putting on your face covering.
- Put it over your nose and mouth, then secure it under your chin.
- Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face.
- Make sure you can breathe easily.
- Do not place a mask on a child younger than two.



Use the face covering to protect others.

- Wear a face covering to protect others in case you're infected but don't have symptoms.
- Keep the covering on your face the entire time you're in public.
- Don't put the covering around your neck or up on your forehead.
- Don't touch the face covering, and, if you do, clean your hands.



Follow everyday health habits.

- Stay at least six feet away from others.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- Wash your hands often, with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds each time.
- Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.



Take off your cloth face covering carefully, when you're home.

- Untie the strings behind your head or stretch the ear loops.
- Handle only by the ear loops or ties.
- Fold outside corners together.
- Place face covering in the washing machine.
- Wash your hands with soap and water.



Cloth face coverings are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators, both of which should be saved for health care workers and other medical first responders.

For instructions on making a cloth face covering, visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).

COVID-19 By the Numbers

56 Major Disaster Declarations

approved in all 50 states, 5 territories and Washington DC



\$5.9 billion

in emergency protective measures



116

airbridge flight missions

218

messages to cell phones via the Wireless Emergency Alert System

52

messages to broadcast stations via the Emergency Alert System

critical supplies shipped

7.3 million



face shields

111.8 million



surgical masks

896,183



coveralls

929.9 million



gloves

65.5 million



N95 respirators

18.1 million



gowns

6.8 million

samples tested

146,007 samples tested at Community-Based Testing Sites
125,358 private partner site samples



12,752

ventilators available

39,500

National Guard troops activated in a Title 32 duty status

Numbers as of 5/04/2020



FEMA

Hurricane Safety and COVID-19

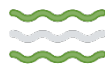
Stay Safe During a Hurricane

Stay Informed



- Listen for emergency information and alerts.
- If told to evacuate by local officials, do so immediately.

Dealing with the Weather



- Determine how best to protect yourself from high winds and flooding.
- Take refuge in a designated storm shelter, or an interior room for high winds.
- If trapped in a building by flooding, go to the highest level of the building. Do not climb into a closed attic. You may become trapped by rising flood water.
- Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters. Turn Around. Don't Drown! Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.
- Stay off bridges over fast-moving water.

Personal Safety



- If you must go to a community or group shelter remember to follow the latest guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for protecting yourself and family from COVID-19. COVID-19
- Be prepared to take cleaning items with you like soap, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, or general household cleaning supplies to disinfect surfaces you may need to touch regularly. COVID-19
- Maintain at least 6 feet between you and persons not part of your immediate family while at the shelter [by avoiding crowds or gathering in groups] as much as possible. COVID-19
- Anyone over 2 years old should use a cloth face covering while at these facilities. COVID-19
- Only use generators outdoors and away from windows.

Source: [Ready.Gov/hurricanes](https://www.ready.gov/hurricanes)

**Attached to this bulletin is a document providing information about hurricane preparedness and COVID-19.

Webinars

Upcoming Region II Webinars



Avoiding Financial Scams During COVID-19

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

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

Spanish &
English
Deliveries

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. Special guest speaker from the SBA Buffalo District EDS/PIO Kelly LoTempio will present on SBA Assistance and Contact information for Region II.

Link to register (Spanish): <https://icpd.adobeconnect.com/avoidscams covid19spanish/event/registration.html>

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

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



Houses of Worship Emergency Planning and Reconstitution – A Pastor’s Perspective

Tuesday, May 12th, 2020 from 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM ET

Please join the Region II National Preparedness Division for a webinar on best practices for emergency planning and COVID-19 reconstitution from a pastor’s perspective.

The Rev. Dr. Miriam Burnett of the Jones Tabernacle African Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, Pa. will talk about her experience as a medical doctor – and pastor – in preparing her congregation for disasters. Learn how she plans for emergencies, including pandemics, for congregations of different sizes and locations.

FEMA and NJOEM will briefly discuss covid-19 public assistance that may be available for NJ Houses of Worship at the conclusion of Rev. Dr. Burnett’s presentation.

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



Planning Considerations for Reconstitution

Thursday, May 14, 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 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>



CARES Act: SBA Coronavirus Funding Program

Friday, May 15, 2020 from 10 AM - 11 AM ET

Please join the Region II National Preparedness Division for a webinar to learn about relief options for small businesses in the wake of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

In response to the global pandemic, President Trump signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act into law, providing unprecedented aid to small businesses and individuals across the nation. The cornerstone of the CARES Act is the Paycheck Protection Program or PPP, it also includes the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Advances and other benefits.

This webinar will feature District Deputy Director Victoria Reynolds, from the Small Business Administration of Buffalo New York who will explain the CARES Act and how it affects your small business.

Link to register: <https://icpd.adobeconnect.com/r2covidreliefandfunding/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 – 4:30 PM ET (Spanish)

Thursday, May 21, 2020 from 3 PM – 4:30 PM ET (English)



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 (Spanish): <https://icpd.adobeconnect.com/helpkidscopecovid19span/event/registration.html>

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



SBA Programs and Services

Thursday, May 28, 2020 from 10 AM - 11 AM ET

Please join the Region II National Preparedness Division for a webinar to learn about the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) programs and resources.

Created in 1953, the SBA continues to help small business owners and entrepreneurs pursue the American dream. The SBA is the only cabinet-level federal agency fully dedicated to small business and provides counseling, capital and contracting expertise as the nation’s only resource and voice for small businesses.

This webinar will feature District Deputy Director Victoria Reynolds, SBA Buffalo District Office.

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

Recently Recorded FEMA Region II Webinars

- [Hurricane Season is Coming, Are You Prepared?](#)
- [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.



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)**
 - 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 12 May 19 May 26
 - Open to All: Thursdays, 2:00pm-4:00pm May 14 May 21 May 28
- **PANDEMIC VIRTUAL EXERCISE: TESTING YOUR PLANS**
 - Open to All: Friday, May 22, 10:00am-12:00pm

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.

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

Meeting number (access code): 715 793 998

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.

FEMA Announces Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)

FEMA announced that the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) National Board will allocate \$200 million to communities across the country to assist organizations providing critical resources to people with economic emergencies, including our nation's hungry and homeless populations. These funds were appropriated in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act to ease financial hardship caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Funding will go to organizations dedicated to feeding, sheltering, and providing critical resources to people experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, hunger and homelessness.

In addition to the \$200 million supplemental funding from the CARES Act, Congress also appropriated \$120 million in FY 2019 annual funding to the EFSP. The funding, totaling \$320 million, will be distributed beginning in early June 2020 to human service organizations assisting those in need throughout the country. EFSP funding is allocated to qualifying local jurisdictions (counties and cities) based on a formula using the most recent national population, unemployment, and poverty data. Each funded jurisdiction establishes a local board that awards the grant funds to local social service organizations, both nonprofit and governmental, that can best address the identified needs of the community. A state-by-state list of the eligible jurisdictions and allocation amounts is available on the [EFSP website](#).

Federal Support to Expand National Testing Capabilities

Testing is critical to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) and mitigate its threat to public health. President Trump has led a historic effort to revolutionize testing in the United States to confront this challenge. To support the Administration's Testing Blueprint, FEMA, at the direction of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, is [working to source and procure testing material](#) – specifically, testing swabs and transport media. The FEMA-sourced material will be provided to states, territories and tribes for a limited duration to help increase testing capacity in support of their individualized reopening and testing plans. Once sourced and procured, the intent is to have this material shipped directly to the necessary location within each state, territory or tribe for their ultimate distribution. Each state, territory and tribal will develop its own distribution strategy to align with its testing plan and unique needs.

FEMA Public Assistance Applicant Briefings

The Office of Disaster Recovery at the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services has scheduled virtual Applicants Briefs via WebEx. The Applicants Briefs provide eligible applicants with the information needed to: (a) participate in the disaster as Public Assistance applicants; and, (b) submit for reimbursement for FEMA-eligible expenditures incurred as a result of the COVID-19 virus. The next Applicant Brief is **May 14, 2020 at 1:00 PM EST**. To register for one of the applicant briefings, please click on the [registration link](#). Once you register for the applicant briefing, you will receive a confirmation with the teleconference login as well as the WebEx login. You will also receive a confirmation email with this information. The duration of the WebEx should be approximately 1 hour.

FEMA CDP Training Credited for Successful Coronavirus Response

The FEMA Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) has been publicly praised in recent weeks by responders across the nation directly engaged in the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic response. The CDP trains approximately 50,000 students annually, from emergency management officials to law enforcement officers, firefighters, and doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers. The students come from all states and U.S. territories, as well as several foreign countries. Since it opened its doors in 1998, the CDP has trained more than 1.1 million responders. Visit the [CDP website](#) to learn more about the mission of the CDP and the trainings they offer.

CDC Launches National Viral Genomics Consortium to Better Map SARS-CoV-2 Transmission

CDC has kicked off the [SARS-CoV-2 Sequencing for Public Health Emergency Response, Epidemiology and Surveillance \(SPHERES\)](#) consortium, which will greatly expand the use of [whole genome sequencing \(WGS\)](#) of the COVID-19 virus. This national network of sequencing laboratories will speed the release of SARS-CoV-2 sequence data into the public domain.

SPHERES will provide consistent, real-time sequence data to the public health response teams investigating cases and clusters of COVID-19 across the country. It will help them better understand how the virus is spreading, both nationally and in their local communities. Better data, in turn, will help public health officials interrupt chains of transmission, prevent new cases of illness, and protect and save lives.

NIH Study to Determine Incidence of Novel Coronavirus Infection in US Children Begins

A study to help determine the rate of novel coronavirus infection in children and their family members in the United States [has begun enrolling participants](#). The study, called Human Epidemiology and Response to SARS-CoV-2 (HEROS), also will help determine what percentage of children infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, develop symptoms of the disease. In addition, the HEROS study will examine whether rates of SARS-CoV-2 infection differ between children who have asthma or other allergic conditions and children who do not. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health, is sponsoring and funding the HEROS study.

Alert from the DHS, CISA, and the United Kingdom's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) for COVID-19

CISA and NCSC continue to see indications that advanced persistent threat (APT) groups are exploiting the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic as part of their cyber operations. This joint alert highlights ongoing activity by APT groups against organizations involved in both national and international COVID-19 responses. It describes some of the methods these actors are using to target organizations and provides mitigation advice. The joint CISA-NCSC [Alert: \(AA20-099A\) COVID-19 Exploited by Malicious Cyber Actors](#) from April 8, 2020, previously detailed the exploitation of the COVID-19 pandemic by cybercriminals and APT groups. This joint CISA-NCSC Alert provides an update to ongoing malicious cyber activity relating to COVID-19. For a graphical summary of CISA's joint COVID-19 Alerts with NCSC, see the following [guide](#).

CISA Releases "COVID-19 Disinformation Activity" Insight

As the nation and the world continues to fight against COVID-19, the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) continues to work on products and other resources intended to help critical infrastructure stakeholders improve their resilience and reduce their exposure to COVID-19 related risks. CISA issued a new CISA Insights titled, "COVID-19 Disinformation Activity," providing guidance to deter false information and conspiracy theories related to COVID-19. It provides factual information to counteract inaccurate claims and provides simple steps you can take to fact check information and minimize the risk of spreading false or misleading content.

SBA to Make Economic Injury Disaster Loans Available to US Agricultural Businesses Impacted by COVID-19 Pandemic

U.S. Small Business Administration Administrator Jovita Carranza announced that agricultural businesses are now eligible for [SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan \(EIDL\) and EIDL Advance programs](#). SBA's EIDL portal has reopened as a result of funding authorized by Congress through the Paycheck Protection Program and Healthcare Enhancement Act. The legislation, signed into law by the President one week ago, provided additional funding for farmers and ranchers and certain other agricultural businesses affected by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

American Red Cross Virtual Family Assistance Center in New York State

The American Red Cross across the regions of New York State have developed a program in response to COVID-19 to support individuals and families who have lost family members to death as a result of COVID-19. The program will link crisis counselors with families to provide emotional and spiritual support, as well as targeted short-term casework to assist with navigating through the challenging processes they might be faced with as a result of the death. This might include challenges with moving the family member's body through the hospital, nursing home, medical examiner and funeral home systems in this time when those systems may be overwhelmed and their processes may be different than they normally are. They may also include linkage to legal resources for estate, custody, immigration or other issues related to the death.

The following links to an online intake form can be submitted by a family member, a friend who thinks someone needs help, or an agency on behalf of the family. For those without access to the needed online technology, the phone number will link the caller to an intake person who will assist with the initial steps for getting assistance. The program is expected to operate for as long as families will benefit from the service or through the month of September.

English: www.redcross.org/NYSCOVIDFamilySupport

Spanish: www.redcross.org/NYSCOVIDApooyoFamiliar

Phone number: (585) 957-8187

Volunteer 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: Women and Girls Making a Difference in Monmouth County



Nine year-old Emily of Brielle, NJ sewing masks to donate to 180 Turning Lives Around.

The OisF Foundation (<https://theoisf.com/>), a New Jersey nonprofit corporation and 501(C)(3), organized Monmouth County, New Jersey Girl Scouts, moms and teachers to sew face masks for staff and clients at the nonprofit 180 Turning Lives Around, offering services and support to those affected by domestic abuse and sexual assault. The Foundation sponsors events and activities that introduce women and girls to the healing energy of the ocean and supports organizations focused on the prevention of abuse of women and children. They wanted to do something to help and had partnered with 180 Turning Lives Around in the past. To date the group has donated 200 masks and hopes to continue as more sewers join their circle.

NYCEM's Video Thanking Volunteers



Source: NYCEM

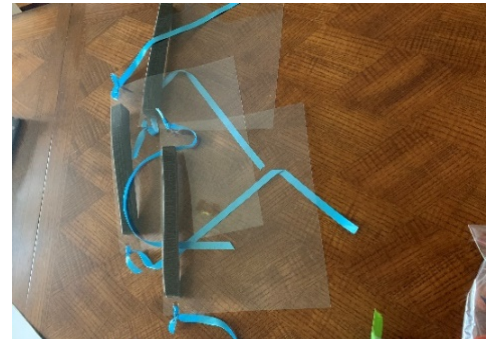
NYCEM has released a [video](#) thanking all of their incredible volunteers who have been supporting their communities during this difficult time.

New York City Community Emergency Response Teams are always ready to help their communities during times of crisis. These dedicated volunteers have supported the City's response to COVID-19 from the start. To all of our CERT volunteers, we thank you for your service.

NJ MRC COVID-19 Pandemic Activities include:

Below is a summary of MRC activities from around the region. New activities are featured under the corresponding continuous operational activities and response.

- Supporting Health Departments:
 - Staffing health department and other public call centers/phone banks/hotlines and completing telephone wellness checks
 - Case investigation/contact tracing/callbacks of negative test results;
 - Community education and outreach;
- Working with private and public partnerships to supply commodities, food and provide wellness checks;
 - 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;
- Healthcare center and testing site support;
 - Operating or supporting drive-thru COVID-19 test sites;
 - Staffing healthcare facilities during surge;



Manapalan Township MRC-CERT volunteer Mark Chudnoffi is creating face shields for use during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Sandy Cameron, RN (right), Lori Novak-Carafello (middle), and Vicki Woodruff (left) pictured at the drive through COVID-19 test site at William Paterson University in Wayne.

CERT COVID-19 Pandemic Activities include:

Below is a summary of CERT activities from around the region. New activities are featured under the corresponding continuous operational activities and response.

- Teams are being utilized to assist with several call centers for local health departments, 211 Hotlines, and other COVID hotlines for referrals on suspected COVID-19 exposures and symptoms, and available local, county and state resources for assistance, and more;
 - Special Needs Weekly Calls to over 600 residents;
 - [Hoboken Translation Unit to interpret hotline inquiries;](#)
 - [Volunteer call takers at NJ Poison Control Center;](#)
- Providing awareness of the transmission of COVID-19 using CDC brochures, hotlines, adaptive policies and door to door delivery of information packet to senior centers, high-risk populations, and more;
 - [North Brunswick, NJ CERT started a weekly neighborhood SHOUT OUT;](#)

- Delivered 100 blue ribbons to Rochelle Park township residents to show appreciation as part of the “Royal Blue Ribbon Campaign”;
- Provided homemade cards for residents of Maywood Rehab;
- Working with private and public partnerships to supply commodities, food, and provide wellness checks;
 - Paramus Food Pantry - Meal Delivery to over 140 residents;
 - No contact food distribution in partnership with the Roosevelt Island Disabled Association for vulnerable populations;
 - Data entry and collection, storage and handling, staff at citywide Food Distribution Points;
 - NYCHA pop-up food distribution for residents;
 - Supporting local schools by delivering school lunches, homework packets or laptops;
 - Distributing and tracking sanitation supplies for early childhood and childcare centers at the Department of Education distribution sites;
 - Food drive for Queen of Peace food pantry, St. Mary’s Pantry Food Drive, Bernardsville, Willingboro, Lavallette, Toms River;
 - Distributing food for the Meals on Wheels program in Rochelle Park;
 - Delivering lunches to students and providing food for the homeless;
 - Tracking donations, PPE, care packages, and supply distribution/organization;
- Working with the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and the National Guard to help with regional and statewide response which can include implementing the Incident Command System, establishing/supporting an Emergency Operations Center, and participating in daily briefings to maintain readiness;
 - 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;
 - Participating in virtual Skywarn Class;
 - Providing fire rehab and shelter for those displaced by fires;
 - Assisting county OEMs;
- Assisting medical centers and testing centers with visitor screening and information;
 - Taking temperatures at local offices;
 - Cleaning and organizing supplies;

NY and NJ VOAD COVID-19 Pandemic Activities include:

- Coordination and communicating constantly with all members, partners, OEMs, COADs, FEMA and State VALs, to provide up to date information on our collective response, assessing community needs and sharing resources
- Accessing plans for concurrent disasters.
- Providing a situational report listing volunteer services and resources available.

Current volunteer initiatives:

- 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;
- Developing a web-based need-resources database to match community needs to resources in real time;

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

FEMA Resources

- [FEMA Corononavirus Emergency Management Best Practices](#)
- [The Voluntary Organization Information System for Engagement \(VOISE\)](#)
- [FEMA Maintains Coronavirus Rumor Control Page](#)
- [FEMA Hiring](#)

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.
- 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).
- 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](#).
 - 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.

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.
- 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.

Financial Assistance Resources

- 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> and protecting 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
- US Small Business Administration offers [Disaster Assistance to Small Businesses Economically Impacted by the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

Mental Health Resources

- [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

Animal Resources ****NEW INFO****

- [If You Have Pets](#)
- [Interim Guidance for Public Health Professionals Managing People with COVID-19 in Home Care and Isolation Who Have Pets or Other Animals](#)
- [Interim recommendations for intake of companion animals from households where humans with COVID-19 are present](#)
- [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Veterinary Clinics](#)
- [Evaluation for SARS-CoV-2 Testing in Animals](#)

Guidance Documents and Toolkits

- Epidemic/Pandemic Planning <https://www.dhs.gov/epidemicpandemic>
- CDC Guidance for healthcare facilities, community-based organizations, individuals, special populations, schools, childcare facilities, businesses, travel and more <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- [COVID-19 Resources for Artists & Art Organizations](#)
- [Children and Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\): Tips to keep children healthy while school’s out](#)
- ****NEW**** [COVID-19 and Telehealth Tip Sheet](#) – describes the use of telehealth and how it has changed during the COVID-19 pandemic
- ****NEW**** [Alternate Care Sites \(ACS\) Toolkit, Second Edition](#)
- ****NEW**** [COVID-19 Healthcare Workforce Virtual Toolkit](#)

Resources by State, Territory, Commonwealth

• New York:

- Latest news and updates from New York State: <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**** [NYCEM Community Resource Finder](#)
- 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.
- New York City Comptroller – [COVID-19 Resource Center](#)
- ****NEW**** 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.
- [NY Community Trust Grants for NYC Nonprofits](#)
- ****NEW**** NYS Fatality Support Mission – available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).
- ****NEW**** Free face covering distribution – visit nyc.gov/FaceCoverings for locations and times.
- ****NEW**** City of New York COVID-19 [Hotel Program](#) provides select individuals and groups a place to stay to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

• 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.
- Visit helpnjnow.org for COVID-19 information from trusted sources for donations and volunteer opportunities.
- Mental Health:
 - Crisis counseling line – 1-866-202-4357 (HELP)
 - National Alliance on Mental Illness - NJ <https://www.naminj.org/covid19/>
 - New Jersey Department of Children and Families has fact sheets to support families during these challenging times at <https://www.nj.gov/dcf/news/publications/covid19.html>
- Riverside Medical COVID-19 testing center for Hoboken residents – call (201) 420-5621 in advance to schedule an appointment.
- ****NEW**** Liquid Church is donating free PPE for DSPs and agencies serving people with disabilities. Interested parties should complete the [PPE Request Form](#). Liquid Church will help delivery items safely and free of charge to help DSPs stay safe.

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

ASPCA
Animal Care Centers of NYC
THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES
BIDEA
Animal Allies
NYC VERT
PAWS-NY

- NJ Department of Human Services resources and guidance:
 - 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](#)
 - [Mental Health Videophone support](#) available to assist sign language users during COVID-19 outbreak
 - [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-%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

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.

K2300 – Intermediate EOC Functions (Virtually Facilitated)

The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) is currently offering seven Intermediate Emergency Operations Center Functions (K2300) courses to Federal, State, Local, Tribal, Territorial students during calendar year 2020. The instructors and electronic delivery will be fully funded by the Emergency Management Institute. The course will be delivered in a virtual environment, completely on-line. Class size is limited to 18 students. Read more in [Training Opportunity 1600](#).

Course Dates:

- May 19 – 22, 2020
- May 26 – 29, 2020

- June 8 – 11, 2020
- July 20 – 23, 2020
- August 10 – 13, 2020
- September 14 – 17, 2020
- October 5 – 8, 2020

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-235c Emergency Planning**
- **IS-315a CERT and the Incident Command System (ICS)**
- **IS-405 Overview of Mass Care/Emergency Assistance**
- **IS-906 Workplace Security Awareness**
- **IS-2500 National Prevention Framework, an Introduction**

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



[Prepare Your Health for the 2020 Hurricane Season](#)

Hurricane season may not be top of mind in this stressful time, but it is something to think about. The 2020 hurricane season waits for no one and no virus. The Eastern Pacific season begins on May 15, and the Atlantic and Central Pacific seasons begin on June 1. Although it may feel like there is not much you can control these days, there are actions you can take while protecting yourself and others from Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) for peace of mind headed into hurricane season.

[FAQs on Diagnostic Testing for SARS-CoV-2](#)

This webpage provides answers to frequently asked questions about diagnostic testing for SARS-CoV-2, which causes COVID-19. The page includes questions and answers regarding the Policy for Coronavirus Disease-2019 Tests. Topics include laboratories, manufacturers, diagnostics, serology/antibody tests, and other general FAQs.

[National Action Plan for Expanding and Adapting the Healthcare System for the Duration of the COVID Pandemic](#)

This 24-page report offers answers and recommendations related to the urgent near-term need to address key challenges faced now by healthcare facilities and healthcare workers in the COVID-19 pandemic. Topics include the personal protective equipment supply chain, sustaining and augmenting the healthcare workforce, protecting emergency medical services personnel from infectious diseases, and preparing for the next pandemic.

Symptom-Based Strategy to Discontinue Isolation for Persons with COVID-19

This guidance details how in the context of COVID-19 community transmission where continued testing is impractical, available evidence at this time indicates that an interim strategy based on time-since-illness-onset and time-since-recovery can be implemented to establish the end of isolation.

Ten Ways Healthcare Systems Can Operate Effectively During COVID-19

Based on the experiences of healthcare systems as they respond to COVID-19, this guidance provides 10 practical approaches that can be used to protect healthcare personnel (HCP), patients, and communities, and operate effectively during the pandemic.

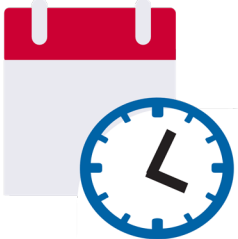
What You Need to Know About Pets & COVID-19

With recent news of tigers, lions, and pet cats in the US testing positive for the virus that causes coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), you may be wondering about the risks to your pets. We're still learning about this virus and how it might affect animals, including pets, but there are simple ways to protect your pet from possible infection. It's important to know how to protect both people and pets during this pandemic.

Effective Handwashing: Learn. Teach. Repeat.

Of all the practical skills and lessons, learning to protect your health in a public health emergency or a natural disaster by teaching and practicing effective handwashing is the most important. Clean hands are essential to health, whether in an emergency or day-to-day life. Start making handwashing a practical skill today so that, no matter the occasion, everyone stays healthy.

Deadlines and Cancellations



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

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

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

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](#) and the [FEMA website](#). 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.