

FEMA Funding for the Safe Opening and Operating of Schools, Including Testing

FEMA continues to provide funding to state, local, tribal and territorial governments and eligible private non-profit organizations to support the safe opening and operation of eligible schools.

This includes funding for COVID-19 screening testing, personal protective equipment (PPE), and cleaning and disinfection costs. FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) program will reimburse 100% of the costs associated with these activities through April 1, 2022 on an expedited basis.

The actions taken by schools to safely open and operate should be consistent with guidance provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Eligibility guidelines are outlined in FEMA Policy 104-21-0003, [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Pandemic: Safe Opening and Operation Work Eligible for Public Assistance \(Interim\)](#). In general, FEMA will fund [diagnostic and screening testing](#) to determine if an active coronavirus infection is present and if an individual should take steps to quarantine or isolate from others.

Together, FEMA, HHS and our partners are working directly with states, territories and tribal partners to deploy federal surge testing sites. While federal support for these sites is funded by FEMA, they are facilitated by HHS's [Increasing Community Access to Testing program](#) and focused on ensuring the hardest-hit and highest-risk communities have equitable access to free and convenient testing. Effective immediately, deployment adjudication will consider how these sites can support the safe operations of K-12 schools. Opportunities to support K-12 schools may include locating federal testing units on or near school grounds; establishing specific operating hours for students, their families, and school staff; or dedicating a specific portion of daily testing to school communities.

Reimbursement is exclusive to COVID-19 emergency and major disaster declarations through FEMA's PA program and in accordance with the "[Maximizing Assistance to Respond to COVID-19](#)" memo issued Nov. 9, 2021. Additional information about FEMA's efforts in assisting governments and eligible PNPs, including schools with their fight against the pandemic, can be found on [FEMA.gov](#). Additional information for applicants can be found on the "[Financial Support](#)" section of that webpage. Expedited funding may be available if eligible applicants have an immediate need for funding to continue life-saving emergency protective measures. If approved, the applicant will be awarded 50% of the FEMA-confirmed project cost based on initial documentation.

Additional assistance may be available from other federal agencies. Eligible schools are strongly encouraged to coordinate their requests for resources with funding made available by the U.S. Departments of [Education](#), [Interior \(Bureau of Indian Education\)](#), and [Health and Human Services](#).



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Contact Us

If you have any questions, please contact FEMA Office of External Affairs:

- Congressional Affairs at (202) 646-4500 or at FEMA-Congressional-Affairs@fema.dhs.gov
- Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 646-3444 or at FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov
- Tribal Affairs at (202) 646-3444 or at FEMA-Tribal@fema.dhs.gov
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