

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Response

Sunday, March 22, 2020

“The whole of government and the whole community is involved in the fight against COVID-19. We will prevail, but it will take government, the private sector and individual Americans working together.” FEMA Administrator Pete Gaynor

Topline Briefing Points and Messages

- > The federal government continues taking aggressive and proactive steps to address the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The health and safety of the American people are our top priority.
- > FEMA is leading federal operations on behalf of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, which oversees the whole-of-government response to the pandemic.
 - As part of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, HHS continues providing their subject matter expertise as the nation’s pre-eminent public health responders.
- > On March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a nationwide emergency pursuant to Sec. 501(b) of Stafford Act. The President’s action cuts red tape and bureaucracy and avoids governors needing to request individual emergency declarations.
- > The nationwide emergency declaration increases federal support to the White House Task Force as it leads the ongoing federal response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- > Pursuant to this declaration, FEMA, in coordination with HHS, is assisting state, local, tribal, territorial governments, and other eligible entities, with the health and safety actions they take on behalf of the American public.
- > All 50 states, the District of Columbia, five territories and one tribe are working directly with FEMA under the nationwide emergency declaration for COVID-19.
 - On March 20, 2020, President Trump declared a major disaster declaration for the State of New York making federal funding available for crisis counseling services in addition to emergency protective measures.
- > To help the American public distinguish between rumors and facts regarding the response to COVID-19, FEMA has created a Rumor Control page on FEMA.gov. The public can help control the spread of rumors by sharing our page: [fema.gov/coronavirus](https://www.fema.gov/coronavirus).
- > FEMA and our interagency partners are working to meet demands for personal protective equipment (PPE) through new acquisition, DOD allocation or Strategic National Stockpile sources.
- > Every American has a role to play. Consider donating cash, giving blood or volunteering your time to help fight COVID-19.



FEMA

What FEMA is Doing

- > Since February, FEMA has worked directly with the White House Task Force and HHS to provide situational awareness, planning, logistics and supply chain support.
- > The HHS Crisis Action Task Force and federal interagency partners are fully integrated with response operations based at FEMA's National Response Coordination Center (NRCC).
- > FEMA activated all 10 Regional Response Coordination Centers (RRCCs) to support ongoing response efforts across the country.
- > FEMA Regional Administrators continue coordinating closely with governors, tribal leaders state emergency managers and state public health officials to determine the type and level of support needed.
- > FEMA obligated over \$100 million for temporary medical facilities and Emergency Support Function activations in support of ongoing response efforts.
- > It is important that requests for assistance, especially for critical supplies, get routed through the proper channels as soon as possible. The most efficient way to identify critical gaps and get results:
 - Consistent with the principle of locally executed, state managed, and federally supported response, requests for assistance at the local and county levels should first be routed to their respective state.
 - Any needs that cannot be met by the state or tribe should then be sent to the respective FEMA regional office.
 - FEMA regions will direct requests to FEMA NRCC in Washington, D.C. for fulfillment.
- > FEMA is working with HHS to deliver additional supplies and ventilators. This includes using its Logistics Supply Chain Management System to procure and track commodities to supplement state and tribal purchases.
- > Today FEMA began assisting HHS with the movement of personal protective equipment, such as gloves, aprons, legging covers and masks to multiple states.
- > We are asking governors to keep the roads open for grocery trucks and related supporting supply chains.
 - Continue to provide safety and priority to your health care staffs, law enforcement, EMT, fire and new responders who include truck drivers, fuel providers and grocery clerks.

Eligibility under the National Emergency Declaration

- > Eligible emergency protective measures taken at the direction or guidance of public health officials in response to this emergency, and not supported by the authorities of another federal agency, will be reimbursed under the FEMA Public Assistance program.
- > FEMA assistance will be provided at a 75 percent federal cost share.
- > Reimbursable activities typically include emergency protective measures such as the activation of State Emergency Operations Centers, National Guard costs, law enforcement and other measures necessary to protect public health and safety.
- > States, tribal and territorial governments do not need to request separate emergency declarations to receive FEMA assistance under this nationwide declaration.
- > This declaration **does not** authorize direct financial assistance available to individuals.

- This declaration does not include Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Other Needs Assistance, or other types of assistance beyond those identified above.
- States would need to submit requests for additional assistance beyond the types originally designated.
- > State, local, tribal and territorial entities seeking additional assistance by requesting a major disaster declaration should demonstrate and document a specific need beyond what is already supported under the national emergency declaration.
- > FEMA assistance requires execution of a FEMA-State/Tribal/Territory Agreement, as appropriate, and execution of an applicable emergency plan.
- > FEMA Regional Administrators are coordinating with governors to execute a FEMA-State Agreement in support of COVID-19 response activities. States are encouraged to activate their emergency operations centers (EOCs) if not already activated.

How To Help

- > Cash donations to the non-profit of your choice IS THE BEST donation.
- > If you have medical supplies or equipment to donate, you may do so through the American Red Cross by filling out the in-kind donations form available on [redcross.org](https://www.redcross.org).
- > Trained medical volunteers can offer their services by registering with a National VOAD member on <https://www.nvoad.org>.
- > One thing people can do to help is to donate blood. Many blood drives have been cancelled, impacting the supply. Blood donation centers have the highest standards of safety and infection control. To find where you can donate blood, visit [redcross.org](https://www.redcross.org).
- > To sell medical supplies or equipment to the federal government, businesses can register through the [System for Award Management](#) (SAM) website.

Community-Based Testing Sites (CBTS)

- > Community-Based Testing Sites (CBTS) are state-managed and locally executed testing facilities integrated with broader state public health services that may require varying levels of federal personnel support.
- > HHS regions will provide the sites with technical medical expertise, employ supplemental medical personnel, and manage the delivery of testing supplies to state-designated logistics sites.
- > We're working to make testing safely and easily accessible to those who need it most: healthcare workers, first responders, and older Americans.
- > We are now entering a new phase where testing will be more easily accessible.
 - We are moving from public health laboratories to private-sector, automated, high-throughput testing.
 - Individuals are tested at the recommendation of their healthcare providers, using evidence-based CDC guidance.
- > We have made available sufficient supplies of testing materials so state and local partners can make testing more accessible. Many state and local governments and private providers are opening drive-through testing, and they know best how to meet their community's needs.
 - HHS is working rapidly with state, local, and private sector partners to stand up new testing options.

- > The Administration is working with the private sector to find innovative solutions to expand testing, capacity has been skyrocketing and is enough to meet demand.
 - This week, more than 1 million more automated, high-throughput tests will become available.
 - FDA is working around the clock to authorize new testing options and monitor and address supply chain challenges.
 - CDC guidance has made it possible to test more people with the same number of tests.
- > The national public-private partnership launched by President Trump last week will help complement state and local efforts and fill the gaps.
- > Additionally, the Administration is working with the private sector to develop a website Americans can visit to determine whether a test is needed and, if so, where to get it.

Defense Production Act

- > On March 18, President Trump issued an executive order outlining use of the Defense Production Act (DPA) in response to COVID-19 and supplementing Executive Order 13603, which delegates DPA authority to federal agencies.
- > The March 18 Executive Order directs HHS to rate contracts and orders and make allocations in support of COVID-19 response, and specifically includes personal protective equipment and ventilators.
- > EO 13603 provides several federal departments with the authority to take actions implementing the DPA, if and as necessary, including HHS for health resources. The delegation includes the ability to prioritize acceptance and fulfillment of contracts, allocate limited supplies, incentivize investment in additional production capacity, and enter voluntary agreements with industry partners that might otherwise be subject to antitrust laws.
- > FEMA and HHS are engaged in how to leverage the Defense Production Act authorities in a way that adds capacity and provides solutions to meet the needs of our healthcare providers, essential workers and our state, local, tribal and territorial governments.
- > In addition, FEMA is actively engaged with private industry partners through the National Business Emergency Operations Center.
- > One outcome from this engagement is the stand-up of a cell that is coordinating needs and sourcing re-supply for the community-based testing sites.
- > Additional information on the Defense Production Act and how its authorities could be used to support the national response to COVID-10 is available at [fema.gov/coronavirus](https://www.fema.gov/coronavirus).