

# FEMA's Role in COVID-19 Response

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In alignment with President Biden's plan to respond to COVID-19, FEMA will work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other federal agencies and coordinate with state, tribal, and territorial authorities and private sector partners and others to assist, augment and expedite vaccinations in the United States.

## Key Messages

- FEMA is taking action to support the President's COVID-19 response plan. FEMA has been part of the COVID-19 response since the onset and the agency is committed to helping Americans in their time of need. We will continue working with our partners to stop the spread of this disease.
- FEMA will support expanded vaccinations across the United States by providing expedited financial assistance to states, tribes, territories, and other eligible applicants for vaccination efforts. Additionally, FEMA is deploying federal personnel to support vaccination sites and providing federal equipment and supplies to support vaccination sites.
- FEMA is coordinating with regions and other federal agencies to identify sites, establish processes, and provide staff for potential deployment, including preparing mission assignments for potential deployment of subject matter experts and strike teams from the Department of Defense, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the National Disaster Medical System. Additionally, FEMA is providing federal equipment and supplies to support this effort.

## Federal Funding to Accelerate State Vaccine Efforts

- FEMA, in accordance with President Biden's Jan. 21 Memorandum, will provide reimbursement to states, local, tribal and territorial governments and the District of Columbia for the use of their National Guard to respond to COVID-19 and other assistance, which will include support to vaccination distribution and administration, at a 100% cost share until Sept. 30, 2021.
- FEMA is supporting COVID-19 vaccine distribution by providing reimbursement to governments for costs associated with vaccine distribution and administration. Prior to the executive orders to expand vaccination efforts, FEMA obligated more than \$57.5 billion towards COVID-19 response efforts to support our state, tribal and territorial partners during this pandemic.
- As of Jan. 21, the balance of the Disaster Relief Fund is \$19.1 billion. These funds will support continued response to COVID-19, including expanded vaccination efforts across the country by providing financial assistance to governments and other eligible applicants for vaccination efforts as well as personal protective equipment, alternative care sites, and durable medical equipment.



# FEMA

- FEMA will also expedite reimbursement for eligible emergency work projects as appropriate and consistent with applicable law and provide an advance of the federal share on a percentage of the expected reimbursement from FEMA-approved projects.
- Such assistance may include funding eligible reimbursement including but not limited to:
  - Leasing facilities or equipment to administer and store the vaccine.
  - Providing personal protective equipment and disinfection services and supplies.
  - Paying staff overtime for vaccine administration or logistics.
  - Contracting additional staff.
  - Training personnel on vaccine distribution and administration.
  - Supplies for administration sites.
  - Using technology to register and track vaccine administration.
  - Providing public communication on vaccine efforts.
- Additionally, FEMA's Public Assistance program will provide reimbursement to state, local, tribal, territorial governments and the District of Columbia for the safe opening and operation of eligible schools, child-care facilities, healthcare facilities, non-congregate shelters, domestic violence shelters, transit systems and other eligible applicants. This reimbursement will include funds to increase COVID-19 testing and vaccines.
- The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 appropriates \$2 billion to FEMA to provide financial assistance to individuals and households for COVID-19-related funeral expenses.
  - The appropriation covers eligible funeral expenses that were incurred through Dec. 31, 2020. The legislation further specifies that there is no cost sharing requirement associated with this assistance.
  - FEMA is reviewing the legislation and evaluating potential options for implementation. FEMA will make assistance for eligible expenses available retroactively upon implementation.

### **Federal Coordination to Identify and Fill Resource Gaps**

- Successful implementation of a national COVID-19 vaccination program requires precise and close coordination across the federal government as well as other governments and among many public and private partners.
- FEMA established a new interagency vaccination task force in the agency's National Response Coordination Center and is developing data dashboards to track personnel movement and vaccine distribution. These dashboards will allow FEMA to make data-driven decisions, mark milestones and identify resource gaps

- FEMA will work with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and other federal agencies to ensure a coordinated approach to using Defense Production Act (DPA) authorities wherever necessary to allow private sector companies the ability to increase vaccine supply and spur vaccine manufacturing.
- FEMA will support a whole-of-government federally led, locally-focused [public education campaign](#) to help educate Americans on CDC and health officials' protocols and safety procedures for the vaccine.
- FEMA released "[FEMA COVID-19 Vaccination Planning FAQ.](#)" a document to help assist governments with their vaccine distribution efforts and reimbursements for associated costs.

### FEMA Supporting and Establishing Vaccine Sites

- FEMA, through its National Response Coordination Center and 10 regional offices across the nation, will coordinate with other federal agencies to meet state, tribal and territory needs. FEMA will provide support to established vaccination locations, establish new community vaccination centers and support National Guard operations to expand access to vaccines.
- FEMA, in collaboration with Federal partners, will coordinate efforts to establish and support fixed facilities as well as establishing pop-up or temporary vaccination sites and mobile vaccination clinics to reach underserved and rural communities.

### CDC Vaccine Guidance

- Because the supply of COVID-19 vaccine in the United States is limited, CDC is providing recommendations to federal, state, and local governments about [who should be vaccinated first](#). CDC's recommendations are based on those of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), an independent panel of medical and public health experts.
- Each state has its own plan for deciding which groups of people will be vaccinated first. You can contact your [state health department](#) for more information on its plan for COVID-19 vaccination.
- The goal is for everyone to be able to get a COVID-19 vaccination easily as soon as large quantities of vaccine are available. As the vaccine supply increases, more groups will be added to receive vaccination.
- The vaccine is not a perfect fix. Everyone should continue to [practice other precautions](#) like wearing a mask, social distancing, handwashing and other hygiene measures until public health officials say otherwise.