



FEMA

April 7, 2020
FEMA Region VII, Kansas City, MO

Region 7 COVID-19 Fact Sheet

Topline Messages:

- FEMA and other federal agencies have been supporting The White House Coronavirus Task Force as part of a whole of government response to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and protect the public.
- On March 16, 2020, FEMA Region 7 activated its Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) in Kansas City, Missouri to provide a coordinated federal response to assist local, state and Tribal partners in the Midwest with COVID-19 efforts. FEMA Region 7 is comprised of the states of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska and is home to nine federally recognized tribal nations.
- Over 100 Federal staff have been deployed to assist with the Region 7 response to COVID-19. Other federal agencies that are assisting FEMA Region 7 include: The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), its public health component known as Assistant Secretary for Preparedness & Response, the Department of Defense Coordinating Element, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, the U.S. Veterans Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- On March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a nationwide emergency under the Robert T. Stafford Act to help reimburse certain emergency costs and/or provide direct federal assistance to local, state and territorial governments, as well as tribal nations. The states of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska were included in this sweeping designation.
- That assistance has been expanded to major disaster declarations granted by President Trump for the states of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska.
- Six of the nine federally recognized Tribes in Region 7 have received direct emergency declarations to help reimburse certain emergency costs and get direct federal assistance to support their tribal nations' COVID efforts. Those tribes are:
 - Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
 - Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
 - Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation of Kansas
 - Kickapoo Tribe of Kansas
 - Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska
 - Omaha Tribe of Nebraska

FEMA Public Assistance (PA)

- The Public Assistance Program provides grants to state and local governments and certain non-profit entities to assist them with the response to and recovery from disasters.
- Emergency protective measures (Category B of Public Assistance) for COVID-19 under both types of declarations include such items as medical supplies, temporary medical facilities used to treat patients, and some labor costs for temporary medical personnel.
- FEMA has simplified the Public Assistance application and funding process to address the magnitude of this event.
- All local governments throughout the entire Region may now go to <https://grantee.fema.gov/> and begin the Public Assistance application process. State, local, and tribal applicants can now create their own accounts and submit RPAs (Request for Public Assistance) directly in Grants Portal without working through the Recipient.
- **On April 4, FEMA awarded \$44 million** to the State of Iowa to assist with its purchases in March and April of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as isolation gowns, masks, face shields, safety glasses and gloves, thermometers, disinfecting wipes, sanitizer, respirators, and ventilators to assist hospitals, medical clinics, city and county governments, and certain private-non-profits across the state.
- FEMA continues to work with all of the States, Tribes and Local Governments in our Region to expedite funding for eligible COVID-19 related expenses.

Alternate Care Sites (ACS)

- At FEMA's request, all four Region 7 states submitted lists of sites to be assessed for *potential* use as alternate care medical sites.
- FEMA has tasked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to conduct the assessments, if states choose not to conduct assessments themselves. Hotels, motels, college dormitories, sports arenas, convention centers, and other facilities are among those being assessed. An assessment does not mean a temporary medical facility would be built. The purpose of the assessment is to give states options for alternate medical care locations, *should the need arise*.
- Sites could potentially provide care to COVID and non-COVID patients. In general, states are speaking with local hospital systems to assess needs for additional facilities, medical equipment and supplies, and staffing. The U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services and USACE are providing technical assistance, including advice about best practices.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- As of April 6, the Federal Government has provided approximately 1.2 million surgical masks, 1 million pairs of gloves, 500K N95 respirators, 200K surgical gowns, 245K face shields, and 7,500 coveralls to Region 7 States and Tribes.

- The entire federal family will continue to work both day and night to assist state, local and tribal partners in accessing equipment and supplies in our shared work to combat the effects of COVID-19.

COVID-19 Resources:

FEMA

- For general information related to the Federal response efforts, go to: www.fema.gov
- For rumor control, go to: www.fema.gov/Coronavirus-Rumor-Control
- Interested in selling or donating medical supplies to FEMA, or volunteering?
 - Visit our [How To Help](#) site to learn more about selling supplies, donating, or producing a product related to the COVID response. Also, info on how to volunteer.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)/Center for Disease Control (CDC)

- Find answers about COVID-19 here: <https://faq.coronavirus.gov/>

U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

- SBA is offering designated states and territories low-interest federal disaster loans for working capital to small businesses suffering substantial economic injury as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Find more info here: <https://www.sba.gov/disaster-assistance/coronavirus-covid-19>

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

- The FDA is working with U.S. Government partners, including CDC, and international partners to address the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak. Find more info here: <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/counterterrorism-and-emerging-threats/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

- The IRS has established a special section focused on steps to help taxpayers, businesses and others affected by the coronavirus. Find more info here: <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus>

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

- Get answers to VA related questions about the coronavirus: <https://www.va.gov/coronavirus-veteran-frequently-asked-questions/>

FEMA reminds the general public that the virus can affect persons of any age, and that each and every person can help slow the spread of coronavirus by frequently washing hands, disinfecting surfaces, practicing physical distancing (at least six feet from another person) and staying home as much as possible until local or state authorities provide different direction.

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