

FEMA COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Update

In alignment with [President Biden's plan to respond to COVID-19](#), FEMA will work with other federal agencies to 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

- At the President's direction, FEMA has increased its support to states, tribes and territories for vaccination centers. FEMA has already obligated more than **\$3.63 billion** to states, tribes and territories, and Washington, D.C. for community vaccination centers. As the number of states with obligations increases, we will work alongside other federal agencies to provide federal support for critical staffing, supplies and other shortfalls that can help get more people vaccinated.
- Even as FEMA is focused on supporting vaccination distribution efforts, the agency is supporting multiple disasters, including the disaster declaration for [Texas](#) and recent emergency declarations for [Louisiana](#) and [Oklahoma](#).

Federal Funding to Accelerate Vaccine Efforts

- Providing funding to states, tribes and territories is an Administration priority. After a request is submitted, reviewed and validated, FEMA can expedite reimbursement for eligible emergency work projects to ensure resources are available to support vaccine distribution and administration.
- As of Feb. 21, FEMA has provided more than **\$3.63 billion** to 35 states, Washington D.C., three tribes and five territories for expenses related to COVID-19 vaccination at 100% federal cost share.
- These [funds cover critical supplies, staffing, training and transportation needs](#) that support increased vaccination efforts.
- These obligations do not duplicate any HHS funding provided to jurisdictions, including the vaccine doses and ancillary kits. COVID-19 vaccines and ancillary kits are provided to state, tribal and territorial governments at no cost by the federal government.
- By law, FEMA funding cannot duplicate costs covered by other federal funding programs or initiatives. FEMA works closely with other federal agencies to provide information about the eligible use of various COVID-19



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funding resources. As part of the FEMA Public Assistance program application process, applicants must certify that assistance is not being duplicated.

- The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 appropriates \$2 billion to FEMA to provide financial assistance to households for COVID-19-related funeral expenses at a 100% federal cost.
 - FEMA awarded a contract to help administer the program. At this time, the Funeral Assistance Program is still in development. FEMA will be working with the contractor on training staff and finalizing implementation of the program over the next several weeks.
- As of Feb. 21, the Disaster Relief Fund balance is more than \$12.8 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 and Other Federal Agencies Are Supporting Vaccination Centers

- As of Feb. 21, FEMA has deployed 1,644 staff across the nation to support vaccination centers with federal personnel and technical assistance. A National Incident Management Assistance Team has deployed to Albany, New York to support the state's vaccination program.
- One FEMA Corps team is supporting the Region 2 regional response coordination center. Additional FEMA Corps teams are at the Kentucky Emergency Operation Center to provide Kentucky residents information on vaccination locations and the [Commonwealth's vaccine website](#). Additionally, AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps teams are supporting a vaccination center in New Jersey.
- On Feb 5, DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas activated the [DHS Surge Capacity Force](#) (SCF) for vaccination support operations. The SCF is composed of federal employees from other DHS components and augments FEMA's incident management workforce.
 - Twenty-five SCF members are in Dover, Delaware and 31 are in New Jersey supporting vaccination efforts.
- FEMA published a [Community Vaccination Centers Playbook](#) that establishes guidance for providing federal support to state, tribal and territorial Community Vaccination Centers. Playbook information includes interagency coordination, resource support, facility setup and other requirements for consideration.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is supporting future planning for community vaccination centers using their subject matter experts, alongside FEMA and state assessments teams, assessing potential new site locations and providing contracting capability to establish new sites.
 - USACE is also coordinating with FEMA and the CDC to design walk-up, drive-through, and mobile vaccination centers. Vaccination center size and location are decided by state, local, tribal and territorial governments.

- The intent of these designs is the use of existing infrastructure when available.
- The U.S. National Guard Bureau is providing 1,198 vaccinators to 409 vaccination centers.
- Additionally, 752 interagency vaccinators have deployed to Arizona, California, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Navajo Nation, Nevada, New Jersey, Oklahoma and Texas. More than 1,700 additional vaccinators have been identified and are awaiting assignment.
- On Feb. 5, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin [approved 1,110 active duty troops](#) to support vaccination centers. [An additional 3,610 active duty troops](#) were approved on Feb. 12. FEMA will partner with the Department of Defense for additional resources at vaccination centers throughout the country as needed.
 - Department of Defense Vaccine Support teams are in California, New Jersey, New York, Texas and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Ensuring Equitable Vaccine Access

- To address and prevent COVID-19 health inequities and ensure an equitable response to the pandemic, the Biden administration [announced the formation of a task force](#).
- FEMA is committed to ensuring every person who wants a vaccine can get one.
- FEMA and the CDC are working with state, local, tribal and territorial governments to identify vaccine center locations that ensure vulnerable and under-served populations have access to vaccines.
- FEMA has civil rights advisors and disability integration specialists in each of FEMA's regions to advise state, local, tribal and territorial governments and other partners. Additional disability integration advisors and civil rights advisors are deploying to support these efforts.
- FEMA established a Civil Rights Advisory Group to proactively consider and promptly resolve civil rights concerns and help ensure equity in the allocation of scarce resources including future vaccine allocation.
 - This group evaluates policies, practices, strategies and plans to ensure equity is at the forefront of all FEMA vaccination efforts across the country.
- FEMA developed a [Civil Rights Checklist](#) to assist state, tribal and territorial partners in understanding and fulfilling their obligations to provide access to vaccine-related programs, activities and services in a nondiscriminatory manner.
- Additionally, FEMA updated its website with a section titled "[Ensuring Equitable Vaccine Access](#)" to define FEMA's commitment to equity and describe the Civil Rights Advisory Group.
- FEMA Disability Integration specialists and advisors are deployed to ensure the needs of people with disabilities are integrated in all facets of vaccine center operation.

- The agency is also coordinating translation and interpretation services.

Additional Vaccine Programs

As the federal government works to increase the supply of vaccine to jurisdictions, FEMA is taking steps to build the infrastructure so it can adapt when vaccine supply is more readily available.

Standard vaccine delivery for state allocations has increased week-over-week; there has been a 28% increase in allocations to jurisdictions since Jan. 20.

In addition to community vaccination centers, federal pilot sites, sites already established by states, tribes and territories, additional federally allocated vaccines will be administered across the country via:

- The Federal Retail Pharmacy Program, which is a partnership between the federal government, states and territories, and national and independent pharmacy networks across the United States.
- Federally Qualified Health Centers such as community health centers.
- Federal entities, including the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Indian Health Service.

Community Vaccination Center Pilot Partnerships

- FEMA, in coordination with CDC and other federal partners, has offered jurisdictions tailorable packages to support establishment of Community Vaccination Centers (CVCs) in partnership with states, local, tribal and territorial governments.
- The sites FEMA is piloting in locations such as California, New York and Texas are selected based on data analysis including the CDC's Social Vulnerability Index and other Census data as well as input from our state and local partners.
 - Input includes localized considerations such as the existing deployment of resources and state public health experts.
 - Analyzing data allows us to pinpoint specific communities that need additional support to ensure equitable access to vaccines.
- This week, centers are scheduled to open in the New York City boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens. Centers are also scheduled to open in Dallas and Houston, Texas.
- FEMA and the State of New York are also coordinating to open four additional sites in Albany, Buffalo, Rochester and Yonkers. Those sites are tentatively scheduled to open March 3 and are designed to provide up to 1,000 vaccines per day.
 - Two centers opened in Los Angeles and Oakland, California on Feb. 16.

- Vaccines for these centers are provided to the states above and beyond the regular allocations. The additional vaccines are made possible through increases in production and availability and will have no impact on current allocation to states.
 - We are working to do the most good, for the most vulnerable populations, with no impact to the current allocations of vaccines to the states.
- These pilots will establish a model for FEMA and its federal partners to scale up as vaccine supplies increase in the months ahead.
- Two mobile vaccination teams from the Los Angeles and Oakland, California pilot sites began administering vaccinations on Feb. 18. These teams target socially vulnerable communities.

Vaccine Guidance

- According to CDC, as of Feb. 18, more than 57.7 million vaccine doses have been administered. More than 73.3 million vaccine doses have been distributed to locations across the country.
- On Feb. 12, the CDC and U.S. Department of Education [published recommendations and considerations](#) of the most recent scientific evidence to support school and district leaders and educators in meeting these ever evolving, significant challenges.
- CDC has released updated guidance on how people can [make sure their mask works the best it can](#), such as wearing a cloth mask over a medical mask. The CDC worked with the Ad Council to produce [public service announcements to encourage and normalize the consistent use of masks](#).
- From Feb. 22 to 24, CDC is hosting a virtual [National Forum on COVID-19 Vaccines](#) for representatives from state, local tribal and territorial leaders, healthcare practitioners and community, education, media and private sector leaders who are part of the vaccination efforts.
- The forum will convene people from across the country who are part of vaccination efforts to:
 - Advance the goals of the [National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness](#).
 - Ensure information is exchanged about innovative strategies and promising practices to promote effective and equitable vaccine administration.
 - Use data to drive vaccine implementation and respond to gaps.
 - Increase expertise and respond to states' and jurisdictions' needs for practical resources on how to best administer vaccine equitably, safely and quickly to as many people as possible in communities across the country.

- The CDC Vaccine Task Force and Data Analysis & Visualization Task Force launched the CDC COVID Data Tracker [Vaccinations Trends page](#). This page includes the overall trends of vaccinations over time in the US and for the Federal Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program.
- Additionally, the CDC Vaccine Task Force is rolling out vaccine confidence consultations for interested jurisdictions. To request this service, interested jurisdictions can send an email to confidenceconsults@cdc.gov. CDC also has [online tips for building vaccine confidence](#), and a [Strategy to Reinforce Confidence in COVID-19 Vaccine](#) resource.
- FEMA is working with the [Ad Council to encourage hesitant or underrepresented people to get vaccinated](#). This research-driven public education campaign provides federal, non-profit and medical stakeholders with insights and communications strategies to tailor communications to reach diverse audiences.
- 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.

Additional FEMA Support

- FEMA, through its National Response Coordination Center and 10 regional offices across the nation, is coordinating with other federal agencies to meet state, tribal and territorial needs as requested. Support includes expedited financial assistance, federal equipment and supplies, and deploying federal personnel to states, tribes, territories and other eligible applicants for vaccination efforts at a 100% cost share.
 - This federal support enables sites to open, remain open, or expand their capacity to perform vaccinations.
- Additionally, FEMA will provide reimbursement to states, local, tribal and territorial governments and the District of Columbia for the use of their National Guard at a 100% cost share until Sept. 30.
- On Feb. 2, [President Biden directed FEMA to retroactively reimburse states for 100% of their costs for eligible emergency protective measures](#) including masks, gloves, emergency feeding actions, sheltering at risk populations and mobilization of the National Guard.
- President's directive also [directs FEMA to expand the activities eligible for reimbursement for work conducted after Jan. 21, 2021 and until Sept. 30, 2021](#). Reimbursement applies to eligible costs to support 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 incurred after Jan. 21.

Contact Us

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

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Helping people before, during, and after disasters.