

FEMA's Role in COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution

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

- At the President's direction, FEMA has increased its support to states, tribes and territories for vaccination sites. FEMA has already obligated more than **\$1.2 billion** to states, tribes and territories, and Washington, D.C. for vaccination sites. We expect that number to climb in the days ahead, and we will work with other federal agencies to provide federal support for critical staffing, supplies and other shortfalls that can help get more Americans vaccinated.
- FEMA is supporting vaccination sites by providing expedited financial assistance, providing federal equipment and supplies, and deploying federal personnel to states, tribes, territories, and other eligible applicants for vaccination efforts.
- FEMA is coordinating with all 10 regions and other federal agencies to identify potential sites, determine requirements and provide staff for potential deployment.

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 may 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. 26, the Disaster Relief Fund balance is more than \$19 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 is expediting reimbursement for eligible emergency work projects to ensure resources are available to support vaccine distribution and administration.
- As of Jan. 26, FEMA obligated more than **\$1.2 billion** to states, territories, and tribes for expenses related to COVID-19 vaccination at 100% federal cost share:
 - \$219.5 million to Maryland.
 - \$216 million to New Jersey.
 - \$466.8 million to New York.
 - \$1.6 million to Pennsylvania.
 - \$76.6 million to Puerto Rico.
 - \$2.5 million to the U.S. Virgin Islands.
 - \$2.2 million to Virginia.
 - \$2.3 million to Washington, D.C.
 - \$1 million to West Virginia.
- These funds cover emergency protective measures to include:
 - Supplies and commodities needed to safely store and administer the vaccine.
 - Transportation support and reasonable, necessary security for refrigerated trucks and support for leasing space to store and/or administer vaccines including utilities, maintenance and security.
 - Medical and support staff including onsite infection control measures, personal protective equipment for staff, cloth face coverings for patients, temperature scanners, physical barriers and disinfection of the facility in accordance with CDC guidance.
 - Dissemination of public information and communication regarding vaccinations.
- The costs of purchasing the vaccine and support kits are not covered by these obligations and do not duplicate any HHS funding.
- 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 at a 100% federal cost.
 - The appropriation covers eligible funeral expenses incurred through Dec. 31, 2020.
 - FEMA is reviewing the legislation and evaluating potential options for implementation.

Federal Coordination to Identify and Fill 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](#) authorities wherever necessary so private sector companies can increase vaccine supply and spur vaccine manufacturing.
- 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 is committed to ensuring every American who wants a vaccine can get one. To reach underserved and rural communities, FEMA, in collaboration with federal partners, will coordinate efforts to establish and support fixed facilities and establishing pop-up or temporary vaccination sites and mobile vaccination clinics.
- FEMA has deployed staff to Arizona and Nevada to support state vaccination centers with personnel and technical assistance. Additional staff across the country are supporting virtually.

Vaccine Guidance

- As of Jan. 25, CDC has administered more than 22.7 million vaccine doses. More than 41.4 million vaccine doses have been distributed to locations across the country.
- 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, an independent panel of medical and health experts.
- FEMA is working with the Ad Council to encourage hesitant or underrepresented Americans 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.
- 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 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.

Contact Us

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

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FEMA Mission

Helping people before, during, and after disasters.