

All, we are looking for broadest possible exposure among Berks local governments, schools (including private and parochial), and municipalities. Also, any group/agency that would be considered under Stafford Act cost recovery guidelines as “public.” (Generally private non-profits providing a function generally viewed as a government function). Please help us with redistribution to any related contacts you may have...

Please review the attached FEMA advisory. This is an extremely complex situation, but we do not want to risk leaving any possible cost recovery for our local responders/education institutions/governments on the table.

At this time, we cannot be clear as to what costs could be recoverable. It appears that Cat A costs for emergency protective measures under the direction or **GUIDANCE** of public health officials are included. We don't know how/if this will be expanded, or how the term “guidance” will be ultimately interpreted.

As we always suggest, your best tool to protect your agency's interests is document, document, document.

Remember, tie documented hours to specific tasks and equipment used.

Eg. Joe Smith worked 1 ½ hours of overtime sanitizing the public areas of a school using an electrostatic sprayer and consumed 8 gallons of sanitizer

This kind of detail could offer the below opportunities for cost recovery:

- Joe's OT,
- The hours of operation of the piece of equipment
- The consumable

Obviously, consumable materials used in the effort also need to be documented. This could include sanitizing solutions, PPE, food offered during relief operations, etc.

To be clear, this is truly uncharted territory. We have lots of experience documenting cost recovery for floods and storms, but I don't know anyone with experience to even ask questions about recovery for a public health response. The more we collect, and the more detail we have, the better our chances to see some light on the back end.

We will share more information as it becomes available.

Berks County Department of Emergency Services

## FACT SHEET

# COVID-19 Emergency Declaration

---

On March 13, 2020, the President declared the ongoing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant an emergency declaration for all states, tribes, territories, and the District of Columbia pursuant to section 501 (b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207 (the “Stafford Act”). State, territorial, tribal, and local government entities and certain private non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for Public Assistance.

In accordance with section 502 of the Stafford Act, eligible emergency protective measures taken to respond to the COVID-19 emergency at the direction or guidance of public health officials’ may be reimbursed under Category B of the agency’s Public Assistance program. FEMA will not duplicate assistance provided by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or other federal agencies. 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. FEMA assistance will be provided at a 75 percent Federal cost share.

This declaration increases federal support to HHS in its role as the lead federal agency for the federal government’s response to COVID-19. The emergency declaration does not impact measures authorized under other Federal statutes.

FEMA assistance will require execution of a FEMA-State/Tribal/Territory Agreement, as appropriate, and execution of an applicable emergency plan. States, tribal and territorial governments do not need to request separate emergency declarations to receive FEMA assistance under this nationwide declaration.

FEMA encourages officials to take appropriate actions that are necessary to protect public health and safety pursuant to public health guidance.



# FEMA