



March 18, 2020

## WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

The **COVID-19** outbreak has created one of the nation's greatest public health challenges in recent history and requires an unprecedented response by all the states simultaneously. The U.S. has responded to and recovered from extraordinary emergencies and disasters like Hurricane Katrina and the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and we will make it through the coronavirus pandemic too.

Why so confident? **Because NEMA's Members have critical roles to play** in the response. While public health is the lead for the **COVID-19** response, emergency management is in support and providing overall coordination across government.

"The level of interagency coordination and the pace of adjusting to rapidly changing conditions in every state in response to **COVID-19** is remarkable," said Trina Sheets, NEMA Executive Director. "State emergency management agencies are coordinating with each other on a regional and national level to share information on actions, in real time, and working at the direction of governors and in support of public health. The emergency management and public health relationship was strengthened during the 2014 Ebola response and those lessons learned are reflected in the coronavirus response today."

### What's the role of emergency management?

- Public health remains the lead at all levels of government for the **COVID-19** response. Emergency management is in support by providing coordination for the overall state response.
- As of 3/17/20, 54 States, U.S. Territories and D.C. have activated their Emergency Operations Centers for monitoring, interagency coordination, and response activities.

### Examples of emergency management coordination and support actions:

- Coordinating activities across state and local agencies;
- Working with governors to prepare emergency and/or disaster declaration requests; Ensuring state resources remain in a state of preparedness to assist local governments;
- Augmenting ongoing disaster preparations, responses, and recoveries for other events; Increasing coordination with Public Health and K-12 partners;
- Conducting more inter-agency training and exercise opportunities across governments;
- Enhancing strategic communications and public outreach to educate the general public on mitigation and preparedness strategies;

- Strengthening public health incident management and emergency operations coordination to enable jurisdictions to provide response support that exceeds normal capacity;
- Strengthening community recovery and resilience;
- Planning for Shelter in Place for voluntary and involuntary populace and potential social spread;
- Identifying mass care support for shelters and operations should the need arise;
- Planning for meal prep and delivery for population that have needs for food, supplies, hygiene, crisis counseling, laundry, unemployment, and health and human services support;
- Planning for distribution network and logistics' support plans for statewide critical materials needed to support the response;
- Activating statewide Joint Information Centers as the single point of contact for public messaging and information sharing;
- Activating contracts and support for commodities and materials needed to support local and state personnel and first responders for PPE, and other required equipment.

**This novel event also requires the expertise of the private sector, non-governmental and faith-based organizations working in partnership with emergency management and public health.** The best of the best in the emergency management community, with the right experience, are tirelessly working together to affect a positive outcome for all our citizens, communities and states.

**Stay strong and be well!**

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