

Coronavirus Pandemic Response: Medical Staffing Requests

State, Tribal, and Territorial (STT) governments across the Nation are still fighting the battle against rising COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, resulting in strains on medical personnel availability. FEMA and our interagency partners are working constantly to support requests for additional medical staff but recognize there are more robust solutions than the federal government alone can provide. Given the scarcity of medical personnel resources needed to respond to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the federal government is asking states, tribes and territories to consider the following items prior to requesting direct federal assistance.

While FEMA and HHS interface with States, Tribal and Territorial governments, hospitals and other healthcare facilities like nursing homes as well as local communities (village/town/city or parish/county/township, etc.) should work through their established processes for emergencies and disasters. Typically, this will involve local communities, healthcare facilities, and medical associations interfacing with their state department of public health and state emergency management agency for any unmet needs. Such needs can only be identified by FEMA and HHS through this process of communication.

When ready to submit a medical staffing request, STT will work through their assigned FEMA/HHS regional leadership. For a request to be processed, the STT must be prepared to identify STT actions that address the following:

1. **Decompressing Hospitals:** STT has taken action to decompress hospitals in the impacted area, executing only the most critical patient procedures and ceasing all elective procedures.
2. **Cross leveling and augmenting staff:** STT has taken action to maximize coordination of healthcare providers internal to the state to balance patients and staff. This includes STT putting a call out to other hospital systems nation-wide to solicit for medical professionals to deploy to their hospitals.
3. **Recalling Retirees and Activating the Medical Reserve Corps:** STT asked Public and Private hospitals to recall medical professionals and actively pursued augmentation from Retirees, Medical Reserve Corps and Medical Schools.
4. **Extending Department of Labor Support via State Workforce Agency Coordination:** STT communicated key staffing shortages and priority workforce needs to relevant partners, including the State Workforce Agency and the State Unemployment Insurance office. Where appropriate, STT posted these job opportunities on state workforce job boards or similar platforms.



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5. **Expanding Delivery of Care:** STT has taken action to modify the delivery of care to increase use of organic staff.
6. **Eliciting Support from the National Governors Association (NGA) and Volunteers:** STT solicited State Governors, through NGA, for medical volunteers willing to deploy to support STT.
7. **Utilizing Emergency Management Assistance Compacts (EMAC):** STT requested to receive augmentation of healthcare providers via EMAC.
8. **Executing Contracts:** STT maximized the use of Stafford Act and Supplemental funding to hire contractors that can provide contracted medical professionals.
9. **Employing the National Guard:** STT directed their Adjutant General (TAG) to request additional medical professionals from fellow TAGs across the region.
10. **Requesting Support from the Veterans Affairs (VA):** STT maximizes local utilization of VA for hospital assistance based upon existing agreements.
11. **Extending Support from Department of Health and Human Services (HHS):** If already augmented by HHS healthcare providers (e.g., National Disaster Medical System and Public Health Service), the STT has requested an extension of the current assets.

Contact Us

If you have any questions concerning this Advisory, please contact the Office of External Affairs:

- Congressional Affairs at (202) 646-4500 or at FEMA-Congressional-Affairs@fema.dhs.gov
- Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 646-3444 or at FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov
- Tribal Affairs (202) 646-3444 or at FEMA-Tribal@fema.dhs.gov
- Private Sector Engagement at (202) 646-3444 or at nbeoc@max.gov

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