



COVID-19 FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Policy by Eligibility Period

Certain eligible emergency protective measures (EPM) have varying periods of eligibility under the COVID-19 disaster declaration. Eligibility is outlined in specific FEMA policy documents.

Periods of Eligibility

I. January 20, 2020 to September 14, 2020:

- FP-104-009-2 Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide (Version 3.1) (April 2018)
- FEMA Fact Sheet Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: Eligible Emergency Protective Measures (March 19, 2020)
- FP-104-21-0004 Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: Medical Care Costs Eligible for Public Assistance (Interim) (Version 2) (March 15, 2021)

II. September 15, 2020 to Jan. 20, 2021

- FP-104-009-2 Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide (Version 3.1) (April 2018)
- FP 104-009-19 Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: Work Eligible for Public Assistance (Interim) (September 1, 2020)
- FP-104-21-0004 Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: Medical Care Costs Eligible for Public Assistance (Interim) (Version 2) (March 15, 2021)

III. Jan. 21, 2021 to Sep. 30, 2021

- FP-104-009-2 Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide (Version 3.1) (April 2018)
- FP 104-009-19 Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: Work Eligible for Public Assistance (Interim) (September 1, 2020)
- FP-104-21-0004 Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: Medical Care Costs Eligible for Public Assistance (Interim) (Version 2) (March 15, 2021)
- FP 104-21-0003 Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: Safe Opening and Operation Work Eligible for Public Assistance (Interim) (April 5, 2021)

For more information on the above policies, visit <https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/fact-sheets>.



General Overview of COVID-19 Activities Based on Policy Dates and Eligibility

Activities	Jan. 20, 2020 – Sept. 14, 2020	Sept. 15, 2020 – Jan. 20, 2021	Jan. 21, 2021 – Sept. 30, 2021
Clinical Care for COVID patients	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
Vaccination	Very limited eligibility with specific criteria	Eligible	Eligible
Alternate Care Sites	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
Community Testing Sites	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
Contact Tracing	Not Eligible	Not Eligible	Not Eligible
PPE	Eligible	Must be connected to an otherwise eligible EPM	Eligible
Cleaning and Disinfecting	Eligible	Must be connected to an otherwise eligible EPM	Eligible
Temperature Checks	Eligible:	Must be connected to an otherwise eligible EPM	Eligible
Diagnostic Testing	Eligible: In a medical facility for individuals presenting with COVID symptoms, or were COVID exposed, for treatment purposes only. Not Eligible: General screening	Eligible: In a medical facility for individuals presenting with COVID symptoms, or were COVID exposed, for treatment purposes only. Not Eligible: General screening	Eligible: Both in a medical facility and for general screening purposes.
Temporary Physical Barriers	Eligible: If a facility was in use and only in a public facing area.	Must be connected to an otherwise eligible EPM	Eligible
Virtual Operations	Must be connected to an otherwise eligible EPM	Must be connected to an otherwise eligible EPM	Must be connected to an otherwise eligible EPM
Signage	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
Non-congregate shelter (with FEMA pre-approval)	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
Emergency Feeding (with FEAM pre-approval)	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible



COVID-19 Public Assistance Policy Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Is testing of employees, students, faculty, staff, and the public using a public facility, etc., to screen for a possible active COVID-19 infection (aka Diagnostic Testing) eligible?

- *Prior to January 21, 2021, no. All eligible applicants may perform diagnostic testing of employees, students, faculty, staff, and the public using a public facility, etc., in an attempt to screen individuals for an active COVID-19 infection.*
- *Diagnostic testing conducted prior to January 21, 2021, may be eligible if conducted in a medical facility for the treatment of a COVID-19 positive or suspected COVID-19 positive individual.*

Is testing of employees, students, faculty, staff, and the public using a public facility, etc., to screen for a possible previous COVID-19 infection (aka Antigen Testing) eligible?

- *No.*

Are social distancing markers, such as directional signs, entrance and exit signs, queueing ropes, etc. eligible?

- *Yes, during the full period of eligibility (Jan. 20, 2020 – Sept. 30, 2021).*

Are signs to enforce the wearing of face masks eligible?

- *Yes, during the full period of eligibility (Jan. 20, 2020 – Sept. 30, 2021).*

Is personal protective equipment (PPE), including cloth face coverings, eligible?

- *Between Jan. 20, 2020 and Sept. 14, 2020, any eligible applicants may use PPE, including cloth face coverings, to mitigate against the spread of the COVID-19 virus.*
- *Between Sept. 15, 2020 and Jan. 20, 2021, the use of PPE must be in connection with an otherwise eligible emergency protective measure, healthcare workers, patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 infection and certain first responders.*
- *Between Jan. 21, 2021 and Sept. 30, 2021, any eligible applicants may use PPE, including cloth face coverings, to mitigate against the spread of the COVID-19 virus.*

Are plexi-glass barriers eligible?

- *Between Jan. 20, 2020 and Sept. 14, 2020, any eligible applicant that remained open in some capacity (i.e. closed to the public but with limited staff working in a public facility) may temporarily install plexi-glass barriers in a public facing area (i.e. reception desk, help counter, etc.) only. Such barriers must be temporary and able to be removed at the end of the incident period. Barriers temporarily installed to separate workspace (i.e. employees' desks, student desks, non-public facing areas) are not eligible. Applicants will be required to meet Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) requirements.*
- *Between Sept. 15, 2020 and Jan. 20, 2021, the temporary installation of plexi-glass barriers must be in connection with an otherwise eligible emergency protective measure. Such barriers must be temporary and able to be removed at the end of the incident period. Applicants will be required to meet EHP requirements.*
- *Between Jan. 21, 2021 and Sept. 30, 2021, any eligible applicants may temporarily install plexi-glass barriers to mitigate against the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Such barriers must be temporary and able to be removed at the end of the incident period. Applicants will be required to meet EHP requirements.*



Public schools had to adjust their school meals programs in a virtual environment and incurred additional costs to package and deliver food to students. Is this eligible?

- *No. School meals programs are not eligible emergency protective measures. A school's meal program is viewed as the continuation of an existing service provided by the school system. While the schools may have incurred additional costs adjusting the operation of the meal program in the COVID-19 environment, these additional costs are considered an increased operating expense.*

Jails, and other public congregate settings, adjusted the type of materials used to serve meals (i.e. plasticware, disposable trays/containers) to people living within their public facility. Is this eligible?

- *No. The provision of meals to individuals held in a publicly-run-congregate-setting is not an eligible emergency protective measure. The provision of meals is viewed as the continuation of an existing service. While a public entity may have incurred additional costs adjusting the provision of meals in the COVID-19 environment, these additional costs are considered an increased operating expense.*

To mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus, additional disinfection measures of high touch areas were implemented. Is this eligible?

- *Between Jan. 20, 2020 and Sept. 14, 2020, any eligible applicant that remained open in some capacity (i.e. closed to the public but with limited staff working in a public facility) may need to conduct additional cleaning/disinfection of high touch area. The additional cost for equipment and supplies in excess of an applicant's normal cleaning budget may be eligible if the cleaning and disinfection is in accordance with CDC guidance or that of an appropriate Public Health official available at the time the work was completed for COVID-19. Applicants will be required to meet EHP requirements.*
- *Between Sept. 15, 2020 and Jan. 20, 2021, the additional cost for equipment and supplies in excess of an applicant's normal cleaning budget must be in connection with an otherwise eligible emergency protective measure. Applicants will be required to meet EHP requirements.*
- *Between Jan. 21, 2021 and Sept. 30, 2021, any eligible applicant may need to conduct additional cleaning/disinfection of high touch area. The additional cost for equipment and supplies in excess of an applicant's normal cleaning budget may be eligible if the cleaning and disinfection is in accordance with CDC guidance or that of an appropriate Public Health official available at the time the work was completed for COVID-19. Applicants will be required to meet EHP requirements.*

If an eligible applicant received CARES funding, does it have to use all those funds before seeking FEMA Public Assistance?

- *No. COVID-19 is a distinctive event with multiple funding opportunities and sources. For this reason, PA funding should not be considered funding of last resort for the DR-4512 disaster; however, it should be considered concurrently with other federal and state agency programs and sources. As a result, FEMA may provide PA funding to eligible Applicants for eligible work under the COVID-19 declaration that may also be eligible for funding under another federal agency program. This affords Applicants the flexibility to determine which source of funding to use for their costs, giving ample consideration to the purpose and eligibility requirements of each available programs and funding sources.*