Shopping online can be a convenient and enjoyable experience, especially during the busy holiday season. However, it is important to take precautions to protect yourself and your personal information from fraud and scams. Here are some tips for staying safe while shopping online during this holiday season:

- Only shop on secure websites. Before entering any personal or financial information, look for the "https" at the beginning of the website's address as well as a padlock icon in the address bar. This indicates the website is using a secure connection to protect your information.

- Be wary of unsolicited emails or messages offering great deals or discounts, especially if they ask for personal or financial information. These are often scams designed to steal your information. If you receive an offer that seems too good to be true, do some research and verify the legitimacy of the website or company before proceeding.

- Use strong and unique passwords for each of your online accounts, and avoid using the same password for multiple accounts. This can prevent someone from gaining access to all of your accounts if one password is compromised. It is also a good idea to enable two-factor authentication, which adds an extra layer of security by requiring a second form of verification, such as a code sent to your phone, when logging in to your account.

By following these simple tips, you can enjoy a safe and stress-free online shopping experience during the holiday season. Happy shopping!
COVID-19 Public Assistance Summary

Public assistance for COVID-19 projects is ending soon. Indiana has had many applications including:

- 1,168 public assistance requests in Indiana.
- 507 submitted projects.
- $104 million reimbursement requests.

FEMA has approved $103 million, while $1 million is still under review.

All local government entities should consider applying for federal Public Assistance for losses due to COVID-19. Eligible expenses are reimbursed at 90 percent. There is broad coverage including backfilling personnel, essential services, the safe opening of schools and costs associated with battling COVID-19. The application period expires Dec. 31, 2022.

Learn more

FEMA Update

FEMA is issuing an updated policy partially to implement the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) for Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) programs. The policy supersedes the interim one issued in August 2021, FP-206-21-003.

The Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) aims to increase community resilience against flooding. The update policy was effective on Dec. 7, 2022, and addresses elevating and floodproofing requirements for structures using Hazard Mitigation Assistance funding.

This policy update applies to any major disasters or Fire Management Assistance declarations made on or after Dec. 7, 2022. It applies to all fiscal year 2023 funding opportunities and future application cycles, unless stated in the funding opportunity.

Board of Animal Health Update

On Dec. 12, a commercial turkey flock in Martin County was determined to be at high risk of HPAI exposure. To reduce the risk of disease spread, the Martin Co. flock was depopulated and has been quarantined. The production site is associated with the Daviess flock that tested positive for the disease on Dec. 11.

STATEWIDE SUMMARY

COMMERCIAL FLOCKS:

- Affected premises = 11

NON-COMMERCIAL FLOCKS:

- Affected premises = 5

TOTAL NUMBER OF BIRDS AFFECTED:

- Commercial Turkeys: 210,210
- Commercial Ducks: 17,703
- Non-Commercial: 466

BOAH is working with multiple state and federal partners to respond to this event, including Indiana Department of Health, Indiana Department of Homeland Security, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana Department of Environmental Management and USDA Veterinary Services, Wildlife Services and Farm Service Agency.

Local Government Support
In addition to this policy for Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs, Public Assistance issued an interim policy in June 2022 for structures that are substantially damaged or need improvements. These two partial implementation policies about the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard allow FEMA to help make communities less vulnerable to flooding.

To learn more about the policy, please visit fema.gov.

DHS Update

The standing National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) Bulletin has been updated.

DHS works with partners across every level of government, in the private sector and in local communities to keep Americans safe. DHS and the FBI continue to share timely and actionable information and intelligence with the broadest audience possible. This includes sharing information and intelligence with partners across every level of government and in the private sector. DHS conducts recurring threat briefings with private sector and state, local, tribal, territorial and campus partners, including to inform security planning efforts. DHS remains committed to working with its partners to identify and prevent all forms of terrorism and targeted violence, and to support law enforcement efforts to keep American communities safe.

Public Safety Jobs Dashboard

Check out all the current openings on the IDHS Public Safety Jobs dashboard. If your agency is hiring and would like to promote the job, submit your information below the dashboard. It's free.

IDHS District 7 recently presented Jerry Sears with a plaque and thanked him for his years of service to the District and each individual county. Sears plans to retire in February.

Wednesday, December 14 the District 5 Quarterly EMA meeting Holiday Pitch-in, Morgan County. There were EMA's present from Dawn Mason (Hendricks County), Stephanie Sichting and Emily West (Johnson County), Mark Tumey, David Skaggs, Torie Fraker, Steve Lyday (Morgan County) and Denis Ratekin (Shelby County). Rachel Hanson (Boone County) and Kassandra Joumpi (Marion County) attended virtually.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Local Government Support Section!
American Red Cross services across Indiana include trained volunteers who are on-call 24 hours a day to help meet urgent resident needs, including shelter, food, health (medication & medical equipment), mental health, spiritual care and recovery plan development. **All Red Cross Services**, including recovery planning, are **free**. To request services, please call 1(800)-RED-CROSS.

---

**Planning Updates**

The IDHS Emergency Management & Preparedness Division is ramping up planning efforts for the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse (TSE) event. Division Director Mary Moran and Natural Hazards Planner Allison Curry will lead Indiana in planning efforts. **The 2024 TSE event will take place on April 8, 2024.** The planning efforts include public safety, tourism, education, businesses, residents and visitors. Indiana soon will create a webpage dedicated to the TSE with detailed information on how to be safe and enjoy the experience throughout the TSE event.

---

**Response and Recovery Update**

The Logistics Section has been busy supporting local partners and food banks!

So far to date, the IDHS Logistics Section has provided a total of 74,892 meals, 5,988 personal protection kits and 16,842 Non-Contact Infrared Thermometers (NCITs) over the last two months to our state partners, county EMAs, INVOADs and local food banks.
IDHS still has non-contact, infrared thermometers and personal protection kits available. Each case of NCITs contains 42 kits while the PPKs include 24 kits each.

Supplies are on a first come, first served and all requests should be made via the IDHS Logistics Section Chief, Melanie Pattenaude (mpattenaude@dhs.in.gov).

---

**Hazmat Updates**

The 2022 annual Tier II reporting season begins on Jan. 2023. LEPCs that have facilities reach out to them with issues can forward them to saratr2@dhs.in.gov and a member of the SARA Title III Program will assist them.

LEPC Plan module district training has officially concluded. LEPCs who have questions about the plan module can contact Jackie Pulley (JPulley@dhs.IN.gov) or Erin Miller (ErMiller@dhs.IN.gov) for support.

---

**Grants Updates**

Reminder: If you have been awarded 2022 SHSP and/or 2022 UASI grants, the NCSR is due by Dec. 31, 2022. If you have any questions or need assistance, please submit a grants support ticket.