On Monday, we celebrated Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., who dreamed of a country that would protect and uplift all members of our communities. This, too, is a cornerstone of the whole-community concept we use as emergency managers, incorporating diverse and unique populations into our planning. As we move forward in 2021, I encourage each of us to continue to expand our stakeholder networks, to better ensure that nobody in our community is left behind.

IDHS Director of Emergency Management

COVID-19 Vaccine Update

The Department of Health continues to await additional supplies of vaccine, and eligibility will expand as more supply is received. Supply issues resulted in several vaccination events planned for this weekend being postponed. Understandably, this is frustrating to those communities and public safety officials who played a role in organizing and sharing information during the planning stages.

The aggressive approach to vaccine distribution planned by the Biden administration is expected to have a positive impact on vaccine supplies for Indiana and other states. IDHS will share any updates, including EMA eligibility to receive a vaccine, immediately once those updates are provided by Health.

Exercise reschedules events

The IDHS Exercise Section rescheduled several events originally planned for January:

- The Logistical Staging Area/Commodity Points of Distribution Full Scale Exercise Concept and Objectives (LSA/C-POD FSE C&O) meeting with IDHS District 5-7 is scheduled for January 26, 2021
deadline for RPAs will be announced when an end date for this disaster event is established by FEMA.

Continue checking the [IDHS Public Assistance Program webpage](https://www.idhs.in.gov/services/public-assistance) for updates on guidance, trainings and other vital information.

**Vaccine Survey Still Open**

The [COVID-19 Critical Infrastructure Vaccine Survey](https://www.idhs.in.gov/services/coronavirus-vaccine) is still collecting data. Please consider reaching out to critical infrastructure and industries and encourage them to provide their information.

The information is being viewed by IDHS, Department of Health and Family Social Services Administration to inform decision-making.

**Available Training and Resources**

"Exploring implications of the new COVID strain"

FEMA Region 5 Disaster Health Response Ecosystem (RDHRE) offers the next installment of the COVID-19 webinar series. This opportunity is free, but registration is required.

This opportunity is designed for first responders, healthcare and public health front line workers and emergency management staff.

**Feb. 4 at 3 p.m. ET**

Registration

**FEMA releases EOC toolkit documents**

FEMA has released five [Emergency Operations Center Toolkit documents](https://www.fema.gov/toolkit). The toolkit has a collection of customizable tools, templates and guides designed to assist emergency management, specifically emergency operations center managers and staff members on preparing and operating in emergency environments.

**FEMA releases “Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Initial Assessment Report”**


**Academy Grant Writing Symposiums**

The Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy will host two online grant writing symposiums to share
CyberStart America Underway

CyberStart America returns to Indiana for the 2021 school year. Please help encourage high school students in grades 9-12 to participate in this free opportunity.

Registration is open through Feb. 28, 2021.

Students interested in participating can register at cyberstartamerica.org.

Information grant application processes and opportunities to receive state and federal funding.

Although geared for fire departments, this opportunity may also provide helpful information for newer county emergency managers.

The symposiums will occur via Microsoft Teams on the following days:

- Thursday, Jan. 28 (7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. EST)
- Saturday, Feb. 6 (10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. EST)

Register for these symposiums in Acadis.