Tomorrow marks the one-year anniversary of Indiana’s first documented case of COVID-19. Together, we have overcome so much this past year, and I have been thankful to work alongside each of you to protect Hoosiers.

In the coming weeks, however, I will be transitioning to a role in the private sector, supporting Indiana’s critical infrastructure in a new way. I know that the relationships I’ve built with my EMA partners, and the numerous items I’ve learned through our interactions during my IDHS tenure, will help me in my new role building a more resilient Indiana.

IDHS Director of Emergency Management

P.S. Don’t forget to check out the EMA Appreciation Week page to see the amazing things colleagues around the state have been doing to protect their communities.

COVID-19 Update

Vaccine Eligibility

The Department of Health has announced eligibility for Indiana residents 50 and over. Individuals with specific comorbidities such as current or recent cancer treatment, sickle cell disease, dialysis patients, Down syndrome or a solid organ transplant should have heard from their health provider with more information on scheduling their vaccine.

The OurShot.in.gov website continues to be the best source for current information. A detailed breakdown of the groups currently eligible can be found here.

Additionally, teachers and childcare providers may schedule an appointment to receive a vaccine with pharmacies participating in the federal pharmacy program. Available appointments through this program can be found online at https://vaccinefinder.org/
For other upcoming dates, visit the IDHS Calendar of Events.

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**Public Assistance Program**

Due to the long-term nature of the COVID-19 response, the Request for Public Assistance deadline is remaining open. A specific 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 for updates on guidance, trainings and other vital information.

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**Grants Update**

**EMPG Compliance Update**

The compliance module for EMPG funded positions is now available in IntelliGrants. [Read the Feb. 26 bulletin for more information.](#)

**Get Ready: NSGP and SHSP Will Open Soon**

The NOFOs for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program and the State Homeland Security Program are expected to open in the next two weeks. Keep an eye on your email for more information!

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**Distribution of KN95 Masks and Sanitizer**

KN95 masks and bottles of hand sanitizer are available to law enforcement, public safety, first responders, food and agriculture, energy, water and wastewater, transportation and logistics, public works and infrastructure, communications and IT, as well as community- or government-based operations.

To submit a request for KN95 masks and bottles of hand sanitizer, [click here.](#) Information for using the order entry portal can be found [here.](#)

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**Exercise Quick Hits**

Last year, IDHS offered the first Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop (IPPW) in October. Moving forward, it will be offered annually in May (tentatively May 12, 2021). The Exercise team encourages counties and/or districts to hold an IPPW or Training Exercise Planning Workshop annually, and roll up either their Integrated Preparedness Plan/Integrated Preparedness Schedule or Training Exercise Plan to the IDHS Exercise Section.

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**Available Training**

**Addressing Climate Risks in Your Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan**
Hazard mitigation planning is important for reducing the impact of disasters and for receiving funding from FEMA following a disaster declaration. Attend this webinar on **March 10** to learn how to address climate risks in your Multi-hazard Mitigation Plan development process. [Register here.]

### National Exercise Program Nominations

FEMA is accepting nominations for exercise support as part of the National Exercise Program (NEP) Spring Nomination Round, with nominations due by **April 1**.

To assist partners in preparing nomination packages, the National Exercise Division (NED) will host a **National Exercise Program (NEP) Spring Nomination Round Webinar** with one remaining date option, **March 11**. The webinar will include the following discussion points:

- Nomination process overview;
- Benefits of nominating an exercise to the NEP;
- Exercise support within a COVID-19 environment and best practices for virtual exercises; and
- Approved 2021—2022 Principals' Strategic Priorities (PSP).

To register for one of the offerings, visit the [NEP Webinar page.](#)

### K202 Debris Management Planning

FEMA will offer a virtual delivery of this course, designed for state, tribal and local officials responsible for planning, managing and/or implementing debris removal and disposal activities from all types of disasters.

- Learn more about the **March 16-18** opportunity
- Learn more about the **March 23-25** opportunity

### FirstNet Brings Internet to the Woods: Command & Control During Wildfires

Join the FirstNet Emergency Management Webinar Series on **April 8** for a webinar focused on how public safety has utilized the FirstNet Network to support wildfire response operations. [Learn more and register.](#)
Visit the symposium website for more information and to register for a nominal cost.

K210 Recovery from Disaster Local Community Roles

This course addresses newly updated content about concepts in disaster recovery and the latest guidance on recovery planning. Learn more here.

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