IDHS helping to track data at the county level

The COVID-19 response across Indiana has moved swiftly, resulting in several persistent questions in the public safety community. IDHS continues to clarify instructions and processes at every opportunity, including today in the weekly update that will be distributed to Emergency Managers in all 92 counties. Furthermore, the IDHS Emergency Management page maintains a list of FAQs that represent some of the most common themes heard through response channels.

As multiple agencies join the efforts, these agencies have their own data needs as well. This has caused some duplication in efforts, although some of these requirements are at the federal level and requested by federal agencies. IDHS and the State Emergency Operations Center is focused on sharing data to avoid duplication as much as possible, but the pace and evolution of this COVID-19 response are such that those may still occur from time to time.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

WebEOC continues to receive PPE requests submitted by EMAs. The entirety of these requests was consolidated into an overall request to FEMA on March 25. **To date, IDHS has not received any shipment nor does it have access to any resources from the Strategic National Stockpile**. All PPE resources shipped to Indiana were prioritized for healthcare facilities and immediately were shipped across Indiana with help from the Indiana National Guard. The minute IDHS receives a status update from FEMA about these much-needed resources, it will be communicated to the county EMA and other normal channels. Until then, EMAs should continue to submit requests and needs to WebEOC so that these needs can be tracked and relayed in real-time to FEMA as the response continues. This should include the needs of police, fire and EMS.

It is extremely important the EMS Provider Agencies track their PPE stock in EMResource (tracking only: all requests for additional PPE should roll up through the EMA via WebEOC). Color coding in EMResource should reflect the current status of inventory, not the desired status. For example, do not list your resources as black if in fact you still have supply. Before changing the status to black, please contact your EMS district manager to facilitate some emergency transfers of resources, if possible. **EMS provider agencies should be updating EMResource daily, especially transport agencies**. Contact your EMS district manager if you need help accessing your EMResource account.

Personnel Tracking (healthy and unhealthy)

County EMAs also are contacting all public safety agencies (fire, police, EMS) to check on staffing numbers as well as the number of personnel who have been exposed to COVID-19. This is intended to prepare Indiana to supplement public safety staffing for agencies and counties should it become necessary. This data will be critical to ensuring Indiana can shift trained and qualified resources to communities that need it the most during this public health emergency. Please help provide this data to your county EMA.

As a support agency during this emergency, IDHS will share information with all EMAs, first responders and local entities as the information becomes available. The PPE needs for Indiana are critical, clearly, just as they are for many other states currently. As of today, IDHS does not have a stockpile of PPE. That said, Indiana must remain diligent in collecting the data mentioned above so that the state will be ready when this shortfall in resources is remedied.

All EMS guidance, Public Assistance Program documents and other resources provided by FEMA will be maintained on the IDHS website.