



Community Resilience Initiative - Emergency Management During Pandemic

COVID-19 & Emergency Declarations:

1. **Public Health Emergency Declaration** by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) on Jan 30 that was retroactive to January 27, 2020.
2. **National Emergency Declaration** by the President on March 13 that was retroactive to March 1, 2020.
3. **Major Disaster Declaration** by the President upon request by state, territory and tribal government each.

FEMA Assistance During COVID-19:

- Public Assistance: infrastructure assistance that state requested
- Individual Assistance: only crisis counseling at this time
 - For more info about Washington state public assistance during COVID-19 visit: <https://mil.wa.gov/public-assistance>

Civil rights are never suspended, including during COVID-19 and other disasters - ADA, Olmstead decision, Rehab Act, etc MUST be complied with!

Examples of discrimination & advocacy topics during COVID-19 Pandemic:

- Institutionalization
- Access to equally effective communications and notifications
- Testing and test site accessibility / accommodations
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Visitation policies in hospitals¹ and congregate facilities
- Healthcare rationing², denial of treatment and non-consensual medical experimentation
- Lockdown discrimination
- Reopening discrimination
- Health maintenance and workplace accommodations

1

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/06/09/ocr-resolves-complaints-after-state-connecticut-private-hospital-safeguard-rights-persons.html>

2

<https://www.centerforpublicrep.org/news/resolution-of-federal-complaint-filed-by-cpr-and-partners-sets-national-precedent-for-policies-regarding-the-rationing-of-medical-care-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

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A **concurrent disaster** is a disaster that happens at the same time as another disaster.

Use of Masks:

- **The Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Deafblind Communities**
 - Anti-fog transparent mask for health care providers and Deaf and Hard of Hearing people
 - No good solution yet
- **Alternatives when masks are an access issue**
 - “Scarves or bandanas; curbside services; allowing an individual to wait in a vehicle for an appointment and enter the building when called or texted; and appointments by telephone or video calls.”³

Civil rights violations can occur due to lack of inclusive continuity of operations planning.

- Individual plans are important but can only go so far. Systems around people with disabilities need to be functional and have inclusive continuity of operations.

What can CILs do now?

Advocate for equal access by being involved in planning for:

- Voting- how will people who do not read print vote by mail-in or at drop-off boxes?
- PPE
- Alternatives to mass care shelter
- Accessible transportation while social distancing
- Diverting from institutionalization (next module)
- Inclusive reopening policies
- Systems and individual advocacy

Be aware of discrimination during reopening!

³ <https://www.adasoutheast.org/ada/publications/legal/ada-and-face-mask-policies.php>