



Community Resilience Initiative - Emergency Management During Pandemic Consumer Fact Sheet

Emergency management during COVID-19 and other disasters: What you need to know!

COVID-19 has been declared a disaster.

- The only assistance available to individuals is crisis counseling.

Civil rights are never suspended, including during covid-19 and other disasters!

You have a right to equal access to disaster-related programs and services including:

- On-site or remote interpreters
- Materials in an accessible format
- Services in physically accessible places

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

- There may be disasters that happen during COVID-19. COVID-19 precautions, such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and social distancing, still must be used.

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

www.disasterstrategies.org
112 N. 8th Street, Suite 600
Philadelphia PA 19107

Disaster Hotline (800) 626-4959
info@disasterstrategies.org
Twitter: [@distasterstrat](https://twitter.com/distasterstrat)



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Work with your CIL to advocate and plan for:

- Equal access to voting- how will people who do not read print vote by mail-in or at drop-off boxes?
- PPE
- Accessible transportation while social distancing
- Inclusive reopening policies
- Inclusive vaccine roll-out/distribution

Be on the alert for civil rights violations during reopening!

Develop personal emergency plans now so that you can have the services and supplies you will need to maintain health, safety, independence, and dignity.

- **If you use Personal Assistance Services:** Your personal assistants (or their family members) may get sick, or may not be able to get to you due to canceled childcare or schools. Make sure your plan includes lots of back-ups.
- **If you use Sign Language Interpreters:** If interpreters get sick or there isn't access to interpreters or VRI, plan for back-up sources for alternative communication to sign language interpreters.
- Health maintenance services and durable/consumable medical equipment
- Transportation
- Food and water
- Not having childcare