



## Community Resilience Initiative - Emergency Management During Pandemic CIL Staff Fact Sheet

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### **COVID-19 and 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, 2020 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 the state requests
- Individual Assistance: only crisis counseling at this time. More about Crisis Counseling in Colorado: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/crisis-counseling-program>

**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 the COVID-19 Pandemic:**

- Institutionalization
- Access to equally effective communications and notifications
- Testing and test site accessibility/accommodations
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Visitation policies in hospitals<sup>1</sup> and congregate facilities
- Healthcare rationing<sup>2</sup>, denial of treatment, and non-consensual medical experimentation
- Lockdown discrimination
- Reopening discrimination
- Health maintenance and workplace accommodations

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/06/09/ocr-resolves-complaints-after-state-connecticut-private-hospital-safeguard-rights-persons.html>

<sup>2</sup> <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.”<sup>3</sup>

**Civil rights violations can occur due to a 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!**

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