



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 and funeral assistance.

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
- Material in 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 the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 precautions, such Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and social distancing, still must be used.

Use of Masks

- **The Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Deafblind Communities**
 - An option to explore: Anti-fog transparent mask for health care providers and Deaf and Hard of Hearing people
- **Alternatives when masks are required and pose an access issue**
 - These can be considered a reasonable modification to policies and practices: “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>)



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Work with your CIL to advocate and plan for:

- PPE
- Accessible transportation while social distancing
- Inclusive reopening policies
- Addressing shaming, bullying, and harassment of people who wear masks

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. It should address:

- **If you use Personal Assistants Services:** Your personal assistants (or their family members) may get sick, or may not be able to get to you due to cancelled childcare or schools. Make sure your plan includes lots of back-up.
- **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