

# Pandemic Planning and Response Trainings

## About the National Center for Disaster Preparedness (NCDP)

The National Center for Disaster Preparedness (NCDP), Columbia Climate School, at Columbia University has been awarded U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grants since 2016. These programs have focused on post-disaster economic and housing recovery, mass care community sheltering and relocation assistance, pandemic preparedness and response, and climate resilience and equitable disaster response and have highlighted best practices and lessons learned for emergency managers, community groups, and the general public.

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## Pandemic Planning and Response Trainings

Trainings are designed to help the learner plan and address the needs for mass sheltering operations during multiple disasters and/or during a pandemic. These trainings highlight best practices and lessons learned for pandemic planning in mass care settings, with a specific focus on the needs of society's most vulnerable.



### [PER-402-W: Pandemic Planning for Mass Sheltering](#)

This 90-minute, web-based, performance-level course is designed to help the learner plan for mass sheltering operations during multiple disasters and/or during a pandemic. The course will begin with a review of basic mass sheltering principles. The course will then focus on how to accomplish sheltering when simultaneous disasters are occurring, including a pandemic. Planning considerations will be presented, including planning for social distancing and quarantine and isolation issues. The course will conclude with a look at planning considerations for socially vulnerable populations who may need shelter.

#### **At the end of this training, learners will be able to:**

- Identify how housing and shelter needs are impacted when dealing with both a major disaster and an ongoing pandemic.
- Identify challenges for congregate sheltering during a pandemic.
- Identify planning best practices for housing socially vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly, and those with special needs during a pandemic.
- Identify how common disaster housing tasks such as registration, damage inspection, and verification are handled in the context of a pandemic and how the delivery and timeline of disaster housing programs can be affected.
- Describe three best practices for transitioning clients to other interim sites or permanent housing during a pandemic.

## [AWR-424-W: Pandemic Planning - Multilateral Risk Communication \(Coming Soon\)](#)

This web-based course will provide participants with an overview of multilateral risk communications during a pandemic. Topics covered include credibility and sources of information, methods of information dissemination and message crafting, and identifying ways that information is shared within the community.

### **At the end of this training, learners will be able to:**

- Identify official sources of information for pandemic-related information.
- Identify social centers where information is exchanged at the community level during a pandemic.
- Identify ways to provide accurate, appropriate, and accessible information that is critical for at-risk individuals during a pandemic using the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) Crisis and Emergency Risk Communications (CERC) principles and subpopulations.

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## [PER-409-V: Pandemic Planning - Mental and Behavioral Health](#)

This performance-level, virtual instructor-led training will provide participants with an understanding of the mental and behavioral health impacts that pandemics have on the community. The course will look at specific populations (such as health care, first responders, the elderly, and children) and how the impacts on them may differ. The course will also present strategies for planning for and responding to mental and behavioral health impacts from a pandemic to help build resilience. Finally, information on communications and information sharing will be presented regarding the mental and behavioral health impacts of a pandemic.

### **At the end of this training, learners will be able to:**

- Recognize the mental and behavioral health impacts on a population during a natural disaster or pandemic.
- Identify mitigation strategies to counter mental and behavioral health impacts during a natural or human-made disaster or pandemic.
- Identify resources available to respond to mental and behavioral health impacts on individuals and populations during a pandemic and other disasters.
- Practice coordination and communication to access mental and behavioral health resources.

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## [MGT-488: Pandemic Planning Emergency Management and Public Health Coordination](#)

This instructor-led, management-level course will provide participants with an understanding of how emergency management and public health/medical agencies can coordinate during pandemics and other public health emergencies. The course will review the roles and responsibilities of state, local, federal, nongovernment, and private sector entities during pandemics. An overview of the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) will also be provided. The goal of the course is to provide participants with ways to increase coordination between agencies so that they are more prepared during a public health emergency.

### **At the end of this training, learners will be able to:**

- Describe the roles and responsibilities of the State Department of Health during a Public Health Emergency.
- Identify the roles, capabilities, and avenues of coordination and sustainability with Healthcare Coalitions (HCC) in support of a Public Health Emergency.
- Analyze the National Disaster Medical System Capabilities.
- Examine federal and regional constructs available to coordinate during large-scale emergencies.
- Appraise how shelter support services, such as social case workers and human services, can help disaster survivors relocate to an interim housing solution.

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This project is supported by Cooperative Agreements 00069, EMW-2019CA-00049, EMW-2020-CA-00064, EMW-2021-CA-00092, and EMW-2021CA-00093 administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Points of view or opinions expressed in this document are those of the author and do not represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.