

Participant	Question	Answer
Jon Pearsall (jonathan_pearsall@emerson.edu) - 11	So would that be all testing costs incurred regardless of date, or testing costs incurred on or after 1/21/21?	The updated FEMA Safe Opening and Operations policy applies to all work performed 1/21/21-9/30/21. If the tests were purchased prior to 1/21/21, but not used until after that date, these expenses are likely eligible for FEMA Public Assistance. Applicants need to provide documentation detailing when the tests were used (i.e. delivery slip; tracker).
Jeannette Angles (jangles@babson.edu) - 11	Does this include private institutions of higher education, or public institutions only?	Private Non Profit institutes with a 501(c)3 designation can apply for FEMA Public Assistance.
Kara Koirtyohann (kara.koirtyohann@hagertyconsulting.com) - 11	Will contact tracing for COVID-19 positive students taken as a part of safe opening plans be eligible for reimbursement?	Unfortunately, expenses related to contact tracing are not eligible for FEMA Public Assistance funding.
Kara Koirtyohann (kara.koirtyohann@hagertyconsulting.com) - 11	Will HVAC modifications taken to provide safe opening be eligible for reimbursement?	FEMA guidance does not list expenses related to HVAC modifications in institutes of higher education as eligible for Public Assistance funding. All eligible expenses must serve as temporary measures to address the immediate threat of COVID-19.
Stephen Marini (michael.materia@mass.gov) - 11	Food Pantry?	The updated FEMA Safe Opening and Operations policy does not include any changes to the COVID-19 emergency feeding requirement. Emergency feeding programs are the legal responsibility of municipalities and institutes of higher education are unable to claim these expenses.
Jon Pearsall (jonathan_pearsall@emerson.edu) - 11	are costs incurred to dedensify campus eligible? Exmple leased space in a hotel for additional dorm rooms and classrooms	The updated FEMA Safe Opening and Operations policy does not list this as an eligible cost and FEMA likely views this as an increased operating expense, therefore ineligible.
Gary Russett (russett@elms.edu) - 11	Did you just say not at educational location?	
Kara Koirtyohann (kara.koirtyohann@hagertyconsulting.com) - 11	What does MEMA/FEMA expect applicants to submit to show legal responsibility to test students?	Applicants are not required to submit documentation demonstrating legal responsibility for COVID-19 diagnostic tests administered 1/21/21-9/30/21.
Elizabeth Craun (michael.materia@mass.gov) - 11	We added a custodial position in August 2020 for supplemental COVID-19 cleaning. Could we potentially apply for reimbursement for salary + benefits after January 21 if we document it as a new position?	If this is a temporary position where the position will be terminated upon the end of the pandemic and the position description is limited to COVID-19 cleaning, then regular time, and overtime incurred will most likely be eligible for reimbursement.
Chris Wood (cwood65@smith.edu) - 11	Is covid-19 diagnostic testing reimbursable for staff and faculty as well as students from 1/21/21 forward?	FEMA guidance lists expenses related to COVID-19 diagnostic testing performed 1/21/21-9/30/21 as eligible for FEMA public Assistance.
Patrick Hitchcock (phitchcock@wpi.edu) - 11	If we prepaid for all of the testing in December but the diagnostic testing is being performed after January 21 would those costs be eligible reimbursement even though the cash disbursement occurred before? We can report the number of tests performed each week to support the claim.	The updated FEMA Safe Opening and Operations policy applies to all work performed 1/21/21-9/30/21. If the tests were purchased prior to 1/21/21, but not used until after that date, these expenses are likely eligible for FEMA Public Assistance. Applicants need to provide documentation detailing when the tests were used (i.e. delivery slip; tracker).
Terry Driscoll (driscoll_terry@wheatoncollege.edu) - 11	We prepaid for an estimated amount of COVID-19 tests in December 2020 for the Spring semester. I have statements showing actual testing numbers after 1/21/21, will those testing costs be covered?	The updated FEMA Safe Opening and Operations policy applies to all work performed 1/21/21-9/30/21. If the tests were purchased prior to 1/21/21, but not used until after that date, these expenses are likely eligible for FEMA Public Assistance. Applicants need to provide documentation detailing when the tests were used (i.e. delivery slip; tracker).
Andrew Maylor (michael.materia@mass.gov) - 11	What if we paid for the tests prior to 1/21/21 but they were administered between 1/21/21 and 9/30/21?	The updated FEMA Safe Opening and Operations policy applies to all work performed 1/21/21-9/30/21. If the tests were purchased prior to 1/21/21, but not used until after that date, these expenses are likely eligible for FEMA Public Assistance. Applicants need to provide documentation detailing when the tests were used (i.e. delivery slip; tracker).
Anastos Chiavaras (anastos.chiavaras@bc.edu) - 11	If testing kits are ordered before January 20, 2021 but used after that date, are those eligible for reimbursement?	The updated FEMA Safe Opening and Operations policy applies to all work performed 1/21/21-9/30/21. If the tests were purchased prior to 1/21/21, but not used until after that date, these expenses are likely eligible for FEMA Public Assistance. Applicants need to provide documentation detailing when the tests were used (i.e. delivery slip; tracker).
Gary Russett (russett@elms.edu) - 11	If we have a CARES Grant can we also apply for FEMA assistance as long as we do not claim same cost under both grants?	Yes, as long as there are no duplication of benefits, you can apply for both CARES and FEMA PA reimbursement.
Cara Callanan (callanancf@merrimack.edu) - 12	We have a cost plus contract with our dining hall operator. Can we be reimbursed for safety-related costs incurred by this private company and passed on to us?	Cost plus contracts are strictly forbidden to be reimbursed by federal grant funds per 2 CFR 200.
Jon Pearsall (jonathan_pearsall@emerson.edu) - 12	is this powerpoint available anywhere?	The powerpoint slides and a recording of the presentation will be made available on the MEMA website later this week.
Michael Monaghan (michael_monaghan@harvard.edu) - 12	Previously one of the eligibility requirements included legal responsibility - To be eligible for PA, an item of work must be the legal responsibility of an eligible applicant - has this requirement been waived?	Please contact your assigned MEMA Project Coordinator to discuss the specific expenses you are referring to. Legal responsibility is still a requirement for FEMA Public Assistance.
Elizabeth Antonellis Antonellis (michael.materia@mass.gov) - 12	please provide the web page links to the Electronic Streamline Project Application	If your entity wants to create an account in the FEMA Grants Portal system, please email disaster.recovery@mass.gov to request the Grants Portal Registration Request form. The Application can only be filled out in the FEMA Grants Portal after your organization has submitted a request for public assistance.
Thomas Kane (kanet2@wit.edu) - 12	Would the cost of quarantining COVID-positive students(housing / feeding) be eligible?	MEMA plans to discuss this with our FEMA region partners. These are likely ineligible expenses since only local governments have the legal responsibility for non-congregate sheltering.
Eric Wilshusen (michael.materia@mass.gov) - 12	I am assuming if our normal janitorial staff is an outside vendor then the overtime rule still applies? In that only the overtime we paid the vendor is eligible?	FEMA allows cleaning and disinfection, in accordance with CDC guidance, that is in excess of the applicant's regularly budgeted costs. For contractors, the staff does not need to work during overtime hours, but the only the excess portion of the vendor expenses (directly related to increased cleanings for COVID-19) are eligible for FEMA Public Assistance.
Paul Wykes (pwykes@clarku.edu) - 12	Our timesheets are all electronic. What documentation will you need to support them? Thank you.	The required documentation varies by expense type and amount. Your assigned MEMA Project Coordinator will review documentation requirements before your entity submits a FEMA application.

Michael Monaghan (michael_monaghan@harvard.edu) - 12	Testing approaches and cadence differed by institution. Are there any standards or limits on eligible testing expenses?	FEMA guidance outlines that COVID-19 diagnostic testing is eligible. Please note this testing is intended to identify if an individual has an active case of COVID-19 when they enter a facility and does not include antibody testing. All eligible expenses must be of reasonable cost.
Andrew Soares White (asoares@bu.edu) - 12	This has been extremely helpful, thank you! How about if we reassigned an employee to manage COVID responses - they changed jobs but were an employee prior to COVID?	Are there any overtime expenses associated with the reassignment? The reassigned employee must perform an eligible COVID-19 response activity during overtime hours for this expense to be eligible for FEMA Public Assistance. Or, if the reassigned employee performs an eligible COVID-19 response activity and their original position was backfilled with an individual that is working overtime hours, those OT hours are eligible. Please note, all labor is based on the pre-disaster (prior to 1/20/20) pay policy.
Vladimir Jandjsek (vjandjsek@fisher.edu) - 12	How can I check if the college is already registered with MEMA for accessing the portal? Vlad	Please email robert.hanley@mass.gov.
Alexandra Mitropoulos (amitropoulos@hrlawyers.com) - 12	Does diagnostic testing include weekly surveillance testing of the community?	The updated FEMA Safe Opening and Operations policy allows expenses related to diagnostic testing that is performed 1/21/21-9/30/21. Please note, expenses related to contact tracing are not eligible for FEMA Public Assistance.
Jeannette Angles (jangles@babson.edu) - 12	Please differentiate between surveillance testing and contact tracing.	Diagnostic testing is intended to identify if an individual has an active case of COVID-19 when they enter a facility. Per CDC, Contact Tracing refers to the process of notifying contacts of exposure and addressing questions and concerns.
Vladimir Jandjsek (vjandjsek@fisher.edu) - 12	The college had to house students in a hotel to ensure an appropriate separation/space in the current dorms. Would this cost qualify? Vlad	MEMA plans to discuss this with our FEMA region partners. These are likely ineligible expenses since only local governments have the legal responsibility for non-congregate sheltering.
Jon Pearsall (jonathan_pearsall@emerson.edu) - 12	are costs incurred to dedensify campus eligible? Example	The updated FEMA Safe Opening and Operations policy does not list this as an eligible cost and FEMA likely views this as an increased operating expense, therefore ineligible.
Gary Russett (russett@elms.edu) - 12	cares grant?	This is also known as the Coronavirus Relief Bill and is administered by the MA Executive Office of Administration & Finance.
Andrew Soares White (asoares@bu.edu) - 12	How about staff that were hired to support contact tracing efforts for positive cases?	Unfortunately, expenses related to contact tracing are not eligible for FEMA Public Assistance funding.
Robert Totino (totino@wit.edu) - 12	Is monthly rental of a medical trailer to perform testing of constituents applicable for reimbursement?	All eligible expenses must be of reasonable costs. The application will need to demonstrate why the trailer was necessary and the most cost effective approach to conduct diagnostic testing 1/21/21-9/30/21.
Jeannette Angles (jangles@babson.edu) - 12	Reimbursement for consultant?	Please contact your assigned MEMA Project Coordinator to provide additional context. What is the consultant's role in the COVID-19 recovery process?
from Gail Wilson to all panelists:	if we purchased COVID tests in December for the arrival of students in January back to campus will these be considered for reimbursement?	The updated FEMA Safe Opening and Operations policy applies to all work performed 1/21/21-9/30/21. If the tests were purchased prior to 1/21/21, but not used until after that date, these expenses are likely eligible for FEMA Public Assistance. Applicants need to provide documentation detailing when the tests were used (i.e. delivery slip; tracker).
from Gail Wilson to all panelists:	we tested 1-2 times per week all staff and students. are these testing cost included for reimbursement	FEMA guidance lists expenses related to COVID-19 diagnostic testing performed 1/21/21-9/30/21 as eligible for FEMA public Assistance.
from Meghan Tosto to all panelists:	If PPE was pre-positioned in 2020, but not taken out of inventory and used until January, could those PPE costs be eligible?	MEMA plans to discuss this with our FEMA region partners. Applicants must provide documentation that PPEs were used 1/21/21-9/30/21 and this is difficult to do for PPEs.
from Yvonne Anthony to all panelists:	What is the average review time for reimbursement of expenses? Submitted an application to FEMA on 12/4/2020 and still have not heard any news?	Please discuss this question with your assigned MEMA Project Coordinator to obtain project specific information. Generally, the review process takes approximately 115 days.
from Scott Slaboden to all panelists:	We had to rent trailers to store unused dorm furniture when we de-densified the dorms. Covered?	FEMA guidance does not list this as an eligible expense for Public Assistance.
from Andrea Wadsworth to all panelists:	we have a vaccination clinic on our campus, and needed to by video cameras for security. They were using our gym which was not tied into our overall system. We needed it cover parking lot is that covered?	MEMA plans to discuss this with our FEMA region partners. FEMA guidance lists security costs as an eligible expense for FEMA reimbursement.
from Suzanne Howard to all panelists:	Are HEPA air filters included or any study done on our ventilations systems? the HEPA units are portable and placed in a classroom. Just want to make sure you knew they were not part of the HVAC system.	FEMA guidance does not list this as an eligible expense for Public Assistance. FEMA guidance lists facility support costs like security as eligible, but this typically refers to labor.
from Suzanne Howard to all panelists:	would rental of temp classroom space be reimbursable if used to de-densify classroom space?	FEMA guidance does not list this as an eligible expense for Public Assistance.