

## Institutions of Higher Education Chat Questions Live QA 12.10.20

Participant		Question	Response
Scott Slaboden		Are covid testing costs reimbursable?	COVID-19 testing is the legal responsibility of local municipalities. Please contact your local government to see if there is a community-based testing site near campus.
Phitchcock		What about the construction of quarantine spaces to host confirmed or possible cases?	Non-congregate shelters serving first-responders and high-risk individuals (i.e. over 65, underlying health conditions) are the legal responsibility of state/local governments. Private Non-Profits must enter into agreements with municipalities to submit costs associated with non-congregate sheltering.
Michael Monaghan		does cleaning meet the legal responsibility threshold?	Applicants can clean facilities that they own, lease, or rent. Prior to 9/15/20, FEMA allows a one-time cleaning in eligible public facilities. After 9/15/20, costs related to disinfection/decontamination are only eligible in facilities performing eligible emergency response activities. Note that the cleaning must follow CDC guidance and be "in excess of current operating costs."
Jennifer Howley		if we set up a separate respiratory clinic - are the set up costs reimburseable, or only the operations costs when running the site for diagnostic and triage?	If the clinic is providing eligible COVID-19 emergency medical care, then these costs are likely eligible, but please provide additional details to your assigned MEMA Project Coordinator.
Sharon Francis		So, if we purchase PPE for students is that eligible? Also, costs to make classrooms COVID-19 compliant. I think what I am hearing is no.	PPEs for students and measures to make classrooms COVID-19 compliant are ineligible for FEMA Public Assistance, since education is not an emergency response activity.
Jeanette Angles		HEPA filters and HVAC upgrades?	HEPA Filters and HVAC upgrades are only eligible in facilities that are performing COVID-19 emergency response activities.
Ross Ashley		Are costs associated with communication of safety protocols and procedures to students and families allowable?	Communications to disseminate information to the general public regarding COVID-19 health and safety measures and provide warnings are eligible for FEMA Public Assistance. Please work with your assigned MEMA Project Coordinator to craft a narrative to support these expenses.
Jennifer Howley		does each state have their own workbook and requirements for filing?	The documentation requirements/forms are different in each state.
Ross Ashley		Are contact tracing costs (labor, applications, etc) allowable?	Unfortunately, costs related to contact tracing are ineligible for FEMA Public Assistance
Michael Monaghan		You advised that FEMA does not consider education to be an emergency activity. What about research labs?	FEMA Public Assistance guidance does not list research labs as an eligible emergency response activity.
Travis Looker		What about hotel expenses for student quarantine and isolation?	Non-congregate shelters serving first-responders and high-risk individuals (i.e. over 65, underlying health conditions) are the legal responsibility of state/local governments. Private Non-Profits must enter into agreements with municipalities to submit costs associated with non-congregate sheltering.
D Mitra		Is there an anticipated timeframe for when FEMA will reject/approve claims, or at least make a determination on the more prevalent expense reimbursement submissions? We will need to know which expenses to submit for FEMA reimbursement or to other governmental funding sources.	FEMA is unable to provide a concrete determination timeline. There are over 800 projects submitted in Grants Portal and MEMA/FEMA are diligently working to complete the reviews of all projects.
Jeanette Angles		Is there another source for reimbursement of testing costs?	FEMA coordinating funding stream tool helps identify available funding sources that cover expenses that are not eligible for FEMA Public Assistance. You can contact your local municipality to explore Coronavirus Relief Funds (CARES).
Ross Ashley		Are campus police and medical clinics eligible for PPE reimbursement?	This depends on the specific activities performed by the campus police. OT labor expenses and supplies for individuals performing COVID-19 emergency response activities are eligible for FEMA Public Assistance.
Jean Gallipeau		What if your institution never closed. Is it still just one time cleaning pre-9/14	Prior to 9/15/20, FEMA allows a one-time disinfection in eligible public facilities and disinfection that was conducted as a direct result of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 contamination. After 9/15/20, costs related to disinfection/decontamination are only eligible in facilities performing eligible emergency response activities. Note that the cleaning must follow CDC guidance and be "in excess of current operating costs."
Travis Looker		Seems like most everything is not covered. Beside cleaning, can you give some examples of what would be covered??	Disinfection expenses are the primary costs that are eligible for institutes of higher education, but FEMA has also approved costs related to performing eligible emergency COVID-19 medical care in clinics. MEMA plans to review previously submitted projects to evaluate any other eligible expenses.
Jennifer Howley		for cleaning - are they reimbursing for cleaning materials and over time? which expenses are covered? what about supplies for continued cleaning and disinfecting through out the semester?	Supplies/materials, contracted labor, and force account labor used to perform eligible disinfections are eligible for FEMA Public Assistance. Prior to 9/15/20, FEMA allows a one-time disinfection in eligible public facilities and disinfection that was conducted as a direct result of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 contamination. After 9/15/20, costs related to disinfection/decontamination are only eligible in facilities performing eligible emergency response activities. Note that the cleaning must follow CDC guidance and be "in excess of current operating costs."
Jonathan Pearsall		What about costs already spent for auxiliary enterprise events where the event was cancelled because of government mandates?	Unfortunately, loss of revenue is an ineligible expense for FEMA Public Assistance.

Katherine Ebersole	signage--reminders to wear a mask, social distance, etc? maybe this goes back to the communication question.	Communications to disseminate information to the general public regarding COVID-19 health and safety measures and provide warnings are eligible for FEMA Public Assistance. Please work with your assigned MEMA Project Coordinator to craft a narrative to support these expenses.
Jennifer Howley	costs associated with bringing students back from overseas back in March?	FEMA plans to review these expenses and provide additional input.
D Mitra	By medical clinic, do you mean a Health Services Clinic that all schools have?	Clinics must perform eligible COVID-19 emergency medical treatment, such as diagnostic triage.
Anastos	is there a difference re: cleaning / disinfecting if someone tests positive or develops Covid symptoms?	Cleanings are viewed as standard/regular protocol. Disinfection is related directly to suspected COVID-19 contamination.
Raymond Rex	Will a recording of this training be available to participants? We would like to pass this along to staff that could not attend.	Yes, MEMA will disseminate a link to the recording of the presentation and Q/A spreadsheet.