



## Delaware Emergency Management Agency

### Coronavirus COVID-19 Situation Report

Incident Name: COVID-19 (Updates in blue)  
Operational Period 3/20/20 0800 to 3/20/20 1700

Report #: 005

#### **Operational Status:**

Activity	Status	Date	Notes
State Emergency Operations Center	Level 1 – Full Activation	3/16/20	Virtual Ops with staff & ESCs
State Health Operations Center	Level 3 – Statewide Emergency	3/14/20	
State of Emergency	Modification #2	3/18/20	Original SOE 3/12/20 Modification #1 3/16/20
Delaware Confirmed Cases	Total 39 - 27 NCC, 5 KC, 7 SC	3/20/20	

#### **Incident Objectives:**

1. Continue to support Public Health and the SHOC Operations.
2. Maintain consistent situation awareness.
3. Task Force to provide COOP & COG assistance to State partners.
4. Task Force to monitor and assist with supply chain integrity.
5. Task Force for community support and recovery coordination.
6. Task Force to explore medical surge capacity

#### **Incident Summary:**

Since the beginning of March 2020, Delaware's health and emergency management communities have prepared and coordinated actions to address the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) within the state. On March 11, 2020 Delaware identified the first presumptive confirmed case in New Castle County. Delaware is currently addressing the spread of the virus within the State employing methods of social isolation/separation and limiting large public events to mitigate the exposure of the virus to the public. The following are actions taken to this point:

- 3/4/20 DEMA activated the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) to Level 3 – Enhanced Watch to monitor and assist the State Health Operations Center (SHOC).
- 3/5/20 Department of Health and Social Services through the Division of Public Health activated to SHOC Level 2 – Localized Disaster Incident, to monitor and prepare for the impact of the coronavirus.
- 3/11/20 First presumptive positive confirmed case in Delaware.
- 3/12/20 Governor Carney declared a State of Emergency (SOE) due to public health threat, effective 3/13/20, 0800.
- 3/12/20 SHOC increased to Activation Level 3 – Statewide Emergency.
- 3/13/20 DEMA increased SEOC to Activation Level 2 – Partial.



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- 3/16/20 Governor Carney modified the SOE for further restrictions for social gathers/events.
- 3/16/20 DEMA increased SEOC to Activation Level 1 – Full Activation utilizing virtual concept of operations.
- 3/18/20 Governor Carney modified SOE to include closure of bowling alleys, movie theaters, fitness centers, and health spas. Modification also relaxed alcohol restrictions on take-out food purchases.

#### **Incident Actions:**

- Delaware Public Schools directed closed March 16 thru 27 to combat COVID-19
- Incident update calls with State Cabinet Secretaries and Legislative Representatives.
- DelDOT issues Limited Intrastate-only Oversize/Overweight Hauling Permit Waiver for the purpose of delivering grocery supplies to retailers March 15 thru April 11.
- Coordinating resource request for personnel for SHOC Operations.
- FEMA's IMAT A-team has been activated to assisted DEMA in a virtual capacity.
- DIAC is working with partners to monitor issues/threats, scams, and misinformation related to COVID. DIAC will work with local, state, and federal partners to share this type of information.
- DEMA coordinated the return of two residents from Georgia after isolation from cruise.
- DPH is working with healthcare providers around the state to expand testing locations and plans for including retail locations.
- DIAC will be distributing the daily SitRep.
- DNG personnel have been activated to assist DPH.
- DNREC discussing possible waiver with EPA for extension of winter blend fuel.
- Call held with statewide Police and Fire Chiefs.
- Office of EMS issued new guidance for first responders
- Attorney General issued guidance to law enforcement agencies on enforcement of Governor's SOE declaration.
- [Initiating conversation between Department of Education and DPH to expand nursing pool.](#)
- [DPH, Delaware Healthcare Association and private health systems will begin fixed statewide testing location on Monday, 3/23/20.](#)

#### **DIAC Alerts:**

- [Special Bulletin 20-2020 - Situational Awareness Subject Calling Grocery Stores Claiming to Have Authority to Administer COVID-19 Testing.pdf](#)

#### **Task Force Status:**

##### **COOP & COG Assistance**

Initiated task force and assigned DEMA personnel and objectives. Establishing contact with partner agencies to conduct operations. The objective of this taskforce is to provide COOP/COG



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assistance to state partners. Task force is coordinating with all state agencies that are public facing to designate a representative for the COOP/COG task force. The task force is reaching out to DTI to get up to date on public facing tech solutions. Additionally, the task force is checking with DTI to see what inquiries have been sent in by email to COOP distribution email list. Worked with DTI to gather remote access lists (VPN). Began drafting a WebEOC board for COOP. Continued to work with DTI for public facing solutions. [Developed a log for tracking issues agencies are having working remotely.](#) [Developed a draft survey to capture agency's current status and projected needs.](#)

#### Monitor and Assist Supply Chain Integrity

Initiated task force and assigned DEMA personnel and objectives. Establishing contact with partner agencies to conduct operations. Task Force participated in a state partner call this morning. The purpose of the call was to create a snapshot of the supply chain in Delaware as it stands today. This snapshot will be used to prioritize needs and develop a strategy utilizing public-private partnerships to ensure continuity of operations throughout the state.

#### Ongoing Objectives

- DEMA will be attending the National Business Emergency Operations Center (NBEOC calls) on Tuesday and Thursday at 1500. [The NBEOC calls are being moved to de-conflict with a similar CIOCC and CISA call. Information forthcoming](#)
- Push messaging on access to food for families (EBT, SNAP, and Plus Up options). The DEMA Director has contacted the DHSS Director to facilitate the approval of Plus Up. [DHSS is working to operationalize the program before messaging can begin.](#)
- Build partnership between VOAD, DE FIC, and DEMA to implement food delivery options from grocery stores to those with compromised immune systems. A call is being scheduled today with DEMA staff from various Task Forces, the VOAD president, DE FIC, and the State Office of Volunteerism. DEMA facilitated a call at 4 p.m. to start discussions regarding the utilization of spontaneous volunteers to deliver groceries to at risk populations. [The task force has provided guidance from other states for helping to define standards of fitness for potential spontaneous volunteers that may be utilized to deliver groceries. DFIC is working with UD to identify the most vulnerable populations in Delaware and would like to roll such a program out very slowly in isolated communities.](#)
- Re-examine current definitions for essential businesses and personnel in both the public and private sector in case the governor needs to make additional restrictions via the State of Emergency. [DHS CISA provided guidance today help define essential personnel as it relates to Critical Infrastructure. DEMA and the DIAC will review the guidance ensure state strategies align.](#)
- Follow up with HR about utilizing state workers to provide relief to state agencies involved in the response. Discussions have begun in HR to address this issue.



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#### Completed Objectives

- A prioritization schedule and preference order for the distribution of limited supplies within the state must be developed. DEMA has begun work on the schedule. A ranking is being adapted for appropriateness to this situation. OMB has received a prioritization list from DEMA as requested. They are developing a standardized list gather information from requesting agencies once supplies have been located. [Item considered closed.](#)
- Coordinated messaging (public/private) must be pushed out to inform the public that there is no shortage of food anticipated in grocery stores across the region. Contacted national partners, as well as local marketing partners. Local partners will produce content within the day. Distribution will begin by both the public and private sector immediately upon receipt. Delaware Food Industries Council has developed general messaging and is awaiting promotional materials for distribution. DEMA's Public Information Team and the Joint Information Center is prepared to assist with message distribution by the public sector. [Coordinated messaging has been pushed out to inform the public that there is no shortage of food in grocery stores across the region. Item considered closed.](#)
- Coordinate with SHOC to validate who is putting in requests for items from the National Strategic Stockpile and get clear directions on who may access those items. DEMA has clarified that DHSS is making requests to access supplies from the National Strategic Stockpile. A 120-day supply of PPE was requested and should be partially filled. Item considered closed.
- Begin discussions with FEMA on how "essential businesses" are being classified in other states to ensure manufacturers of sanitation products can stay open and produce. DEMA sat in on national call with FEMA yesterday afternoon. This has been identified as an issue nationwide, and states who were hit earliest have identified the issue and taken steps to remedy it. Ultimately, the governor of each state has the discretion to deem a business "essential" within their jurisdiction. Item considered closed.
- Direct business owners to smallbusiness.gov website to get information about access to capital, forthcoming loan options, unemployment, and potential unemployment rate increases. [DOS has begun promoting messaging for the SBA disaster loans and HELP. DEMA is promoting the spread of that messaging through the JIC. The correct URL for business support is www.delbiz.com. Item considered closed.](#)
- Discuss options for utilizing DSP and DNG to provide security at retail locations, if needed in future. Some locations for (Walmart / Costco) have contracted (pay jobs) for extra duty troopers for security and traffic control.
- Inquire about LE daily patrol routes incorporating grocery and pharmacy locations. Will follow up on possibility of incorporating retail stores onto patrol routes. [LE daily patrol routes will begin incorporating grocery and pharmacy locations. Item considered closed.](#)



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#### Community Support and Recovery Coordination

Initiated task force and assigned DEMA personnel and objectives. Establishing contact with partner agencies to conduct operations. All topical agency requests should be directed to the primary POC:

- Public Assistance - Josh Kelly/Erin Norris
- VOAD/Nonprofit Assistance - Erin Norris/Toby French/Aimee Mankins
- CDBG - Karen Montes-Berrios
- SBA - Karen Montes-Berrios

FEMA assigned two Public Assistance Group Supervisors (PAGS), Matt Werner and Stefan Smi, to serve as PA SME's and support recovery operations. The task force assisted the Delaware Community Foundation (DCF) with the establishment of a community response fund, joining the DE SBA response group to assist with SBA eligible recovery program, assisted with the clarification of DE's homeless shelter guidance policy, and supported the VOAD in establishing a battle rhythm with its partner agencies. Task force has begun developing content for a recovery page to be added to DEMA's website. Additionally, the task force participated in a DEVOAD coordination call and a National VOAD coordination call, as well as hosted a volunteer feeding call with the Private Sector Task Force to discuss the utilization of volunteers in a food deliver mission. Delaware Community Foundation will announce that the fund has been created this afternoon. The Task force met with FEMA's designated contacts regarding the implementation of the National Emergency Declaration in the State and developed a work plan to implement the rollout. Communicated updates from the Delaware Small Business Administration and FEMA Region 3's Community Planning and Capacity Building staff. Information received from FEMA regarding non-congregate sheltering and for the Disaster Relief Individual Assistance Declaration and Division of Unemployment Insurance along with the postings for it. [The task force participated in a conference call held with DEVOAD and with DPH/University of Delaware partners to update on-going coordination activities. Additionally, the first task force newsletter was finalized and sent out Thursday evening to our partners. The task force will publish a weekly newsletter to keep all partners informed with the latest information to assist with their recovery efforts.](#)

#### Medical Surge Capacity

Initiated task force and assigned DEMA personnel and objectives. Establishing contact with partner agencies to conduct operations. Medical Surge Task Force consisting of representatives from DEMA, DPH, and DNG, discussed potential ways to provide State support to the hospital system if surge capacity is exceeded. The team explored potential locations and resources required to establish the capability. Coordination is required with hospital emergency managers to maintain visibility of surge capacity and establish triggers and lead time to activate additional capacity, if required. Once coordinated an action plan will be created to utilize. Limiting factors being addressed are locations, equipment/supplies, and most critical personnel. DEMA is researching



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identified potential sites to assess usage; DPH is researching shelter medical supply inventory for use; and DNG and DPH are evaluating personnel availability. A new requirement added to the surge process to research availability of ventilators available to within and external of the hospitals. DEMA continued to research potential sites that may be available for surge capabilities. External inventory provided by DPH, coordinating on internal capabilities. Developed a tracking file for potential sites, contact info, and necessary equipment, supplies, labor, etc. Potential staffing continues to be the highest priority. Received a listing of DNG medical personnel available for deployment. Held partner call with DPH, DEMA, DNG, and FEMA. Continued to research potential decompression sites. Began researching isolation sites for patient contacts that need to be quarantined. [Continued outreach to establish a database of potential decompression sites for the hospital system.](#) Surge meeting on Saturday 3/21/20.

#### **New Task Force Alternate Site Support**

[Initiated task force and assigned DEMA personnel and objectives. Task force was split off from the Medical Surge Task Force. The new task force is developing a database of alternate sites to be used for isolation, vulnerable populations, and nonmedical surge support. The task force held multiple calls with State, County, and Local partners to establish a baseline. The task force worked with several grassroots groups to gauge populations, locations, and needs.](#)



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#### Resource Tracking:

Request Date	Deployment Date	Resource Description	Comments	Demobilization Date
3/3/20	3/5/20	SHOC JIC support	DEMA deployed PIO to the SHOC for JIC support	
3/15/20	3/17/20	SHOC Fiscal support	DEMA deployed one Accountant to the SHOC for Fiscal support. DHR working to provide long-term staffing solution	
3/16/20		Hand Sanitizer	GSS sourced alternate product – requested product unavailable. Waiting response from SHOC on alternate product approval	
3/16/20		Disinfectant Wipes	GSS sourced alternate product – requested product unavailable. Waiting response from SHOC on alternate product approval	