



FOREST SERVICE COVID TESTING AND ALTERNATIVE HOUSING GUIDELINES FOR INCIDENT RESPONSE

Updated June 2024

Background

The COVID 19 pandemic resulted in several authorities being issued to assist in response efforts. Executive Orders 13910, 13991, 13998 outlined authorities and work requirements. Presidential Proclamation 9994 declared a national emergency and was further supported by the Office of Inspector General emergency flexibilities. These orders and proclamation expanded procurement authorities to meet the critical mission needs in support of Fire and All Hazard Incidents.

As of April 12, 2024, the executive orders have been rescinded and the state of national emergency expired on May 11, 2023. No further authorities have been granted to maintain the increased procurement flexibilities.

The Forest Service direction for COVID Testing and Lodging issued July 16, 2020 is rescinded. Updated direction follows:

Agency Provided Medical Care (APMC)

APMC utilization is outlined in the Standards for Interagency Incident Business Management (SIIBM) Chapter 10 and Chapter 20 and does not include provisions for diagnostic testing. APMC use for treatment of Occupational Disease and Illness is limited to first aid treatment “only for illness such as respiratory infections, cold, sore throats, and similar conditions associated with exposure to smoke, dust, and weather conditions” (SIIBM Chapter 10).

COVID 19 Guidance:

COVID-19 has been classified as a respiratory virus with no quarantine or isolation requirements associated with a diagnosis by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). See current CDC guidance [here](#).

Testing

Use of GPC for COVID testing IS NOT authorized and the charge codes established by the WO for use in previous years are not available for the 2024 season. All testing associated with illness should be done in compliance with Department of Labor Office of Workers’ Compensation Program (DOL OWCP) practices.

The Blanket Purchase Agreement for COVID testing is no longer authorized for use and is being cancelled. Any incident specific needs for infectious disease should follow regular incident requisition process in coordination with the regional [EMS Coordinator](#).

Alternative Lodging/Housing

Government provided lodging/alternative housing **is not authorized for individuals who test positive for COVID**. Other lodging requests should follow incident agency procedures.