

UT-TF1 COVID GUIDANCE

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Introduction

Following the guidance of FEMA US&R COVID-19 Ops Guidance, *The FEMA Administrator has established priorities for the Agency during the COVID 19 outbreak that includes the following, but not limited to meeting, trainings, Member Readiness Events (MRE) and other UT-TF1 events*

These include:

- *Safety of the workforce*
- *Preservation of the ability to carry out designated missions.*

Not all phases listed in this guidance apply to all events. Members are required to follow PPE and participate in COVID health screening/testing. Members shall be familiar with the Initial COVID screening chart, Check-In Station requirements and the Exposure Risk tables in Appendix A.

Utah Task Force 1 intends to respond to activations and provide the highest possible measure of safety and well-being for our members in carrying out the FEMA US&R mission. In accomplishing our mission(s), the following guidance is being shared with all UT-TF1 members and will be enforced until further notice. Note that this guidance is subject to amendment in accordance with CDC and FEMA US&R direction. Any updates will be shared as they are issued to UT-TF1. **FEMA US&R Program Directive 2020-020: COVID-19 Operations Guidance should be referenced by all UT-TF1 TFL, SO and all other supervisory positions as a supplement to this document.**

New Protocols

The following measures will be enacted by UT-TF1 and practiced by all members while attending meetings, trainings or while deployed during the COVID-19 experience. These measures will include monitoring health, practicing good hygiene, and maintaining physical distancing to the greatest extent possible.

UT-TF1 leadership and members shall

- Maintain continuity of operations
- Monitor the health and well-being of all members
- Actively and appropriately manage potential COVID exposures
- Document and report COVID exposures in concert with IST leaders and the FEMA US&R Branch

Recommendations

Each member is advised to take the following actions NOW to ensure personal readiness for deployment:

1. Purchase additional food stuffs (protein bars, jerky, nut mixes, other similar) to keep in your assigned gear bags/packs that will help sustain you between meals. **Also, UT-TF1 Logistics will be planning very few stops during mobilization/demobilization.**
2. Pack extra personal effects to include socks, toiletries, undergarments.
3. Pack 30 days' worth of prescriptions (enough for 14 days of deployment and 14 days of quarantine, if necessary)
4. Pack one set of "street clothes" in your gear bag (i.e. a single pair of pants & a long-sleeve shirt)

General Notes

- Medical checks and monitoring the health and wellbeing of UT-TF1 personnel will remain the highest priority
- COVID testing (rapid) may be implemented prior to larger events and prior to deployments
- Medical screening of members may occur at an increased frequency (twice daily) during deployment

- UT-TF1 has plans for designated housing and vehicles (if needed) for quarantine
- Members are reminded to remain flexible and patient as guidance may change based on situations
- UT-TF1 Medical and Safety plans shall reflect CDC and FEMA US&R guidance
- UT-TF1 members are discouraged from interacting with US&R canines
- UT-TF1 members will be issued PPE kits and shall have access to them during all phases of deployment

NOTIFICATION (Alert or Activation)

Before members respond to UT-TF1 headquarters or other identified venue, they are required to screen themselves for the following:

- Fever $\geq 100.4^{\circ}$ F
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath
- Persistent diarrhea
- Recent loss of smell and/or taste

If “yes” to any of these symptoms, you must decline the mission/event. Members are strongly recommended to contact your home agency/employer and report your status.

ARRIVAL at PARKING STATION &/or UT-TF1 Headquarters *Initial COVID screening***

1. At arrival, **stay in your car** and stage as directed outside the designated parking area. ***Members are required to arrive wearing a personal face mask/covering.**
2. Wait in your car to receive an **Initial COVID-19 Screening** from an attendant.

****TFL, Plans, Medical, and Logistics Team members shall notify the parking attendant of their arrival so that they can be processed sooner to assist with mobilization tasks.**

Initial COVID-19 Screening

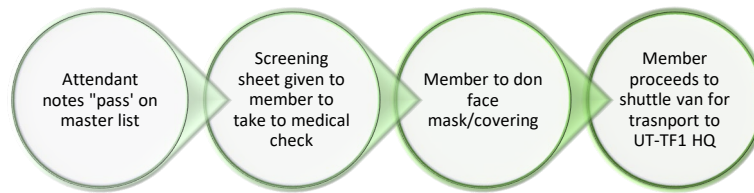
The medical attendant will screen you for the following symptoms and advise you of the determination.

Symptom	Determination
Fever $\geq 100.4^{\circ}$ F	If “Yes” then the member may not deploy or assist with mobilization
Shortness of breath	If “Yes” then the member may not deploy or assist with mobilization
Cough, sore throat	If “Yes”, but no fever, then don face mask and review at Medical Screening.
Common cold symptoms	If “Yes”, but no fever, then don face mask and review at Medical Screening.
Persistent diarrhea	If “Yes”, but no fever, then review at Medical Screening.

Other GI issues such as vomiting	If “Yes”, but no fever, then review at Medical Screening
Recent loss of smell and/or taste	If “Yes”, but no fever, then review at Medical Screening
High risk exposure in last 10 days **refer to Appendix A	If “Yes”, but with no other symptoms, then review at Medical Screening

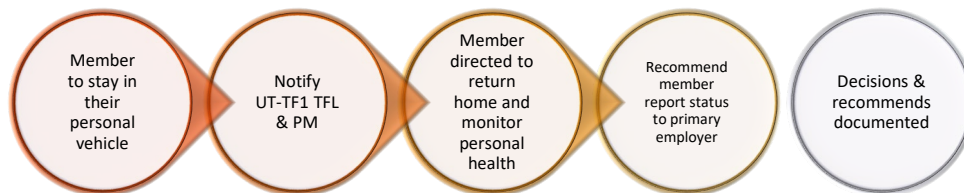
Initial COVID-19 Screening – PASS

These members will be permitted to proceed to UT-TF1 HQ and complete all other HBO processing steps to support the deploying task force and/or deploy with UT-TF1.



Initial COVID-19 Screening – FAIL

These members will NOT be permitted to continue beyond this point and should not be allowed to interface with other support or deploying personnel in an effort to minimize possible exposure.



In addition to the initial COVID screening, all UT-TF1 members are required to complete the normal medical check as part of the deployment process. A PASS during the initial COVID screening does not guarantee any member the ability to work as an HBO support member or to be deployed. Should the medical screening reveal any health concerns, members may be excluded from support role functions and/or the roster for deployment.

The UT-TF1 Medical Team Manager will share suspect status with any member that presents with concerning health status prior to deployment. Depending on deployment modality, UT-TF1 may or may not employ a physician to conduct medical checks. In the absence of a physician, UT-TF1 will employ Paramedics to conduct the medical check. Questions with health status shall be discussed with the member, and the UT-TF1 Program Manager will be advised of the need to replace a member on the deployment roster and/or the support

role vacancy. As part of the decision to remove/disallow a member to proceed beyond the health check station, it is not necessary to disclose the particular health concern or detailed health information in support of HIPPA. It is only necessary to share that the member cannot/should not proceed.

ARRIVAL at UT-TF1 HEADQUARTERS (HQ):

General US&R operations guidance and the UT-TF1 HBO in-processing shall remain the same. Noted exceptions and guidance related to COVID shall also apply.

- N95 (KN95) Masks are REQUIRED to be worn while inside the building
- Drop off bags at designated area immediately south of HQ entrance
- Proceed through the East door of HQ for HBO in-processing
- Follow directions of staff and signs
- Maintain physical distancing guidance

** Members are reminded to remain in designated areas. Do not wander.

Check-In Station

- Sign the correct 211
- Complete the Medical Check form
- Complete any additional COVID medical forms that may have been provided to you

Medical Screening Station

- Review the Initial COVID-19 Screening Sheet and complete the Medical Screening
- Review whether the member has been quarantined recently. Review affirmative answers on a case-by-case basis

Gear Bag Station -- no change from normal actions

Communications Equipment Issue Station -- no change from normal actions

Operations Brief

Depending on deployment configuration (Type I, Type 3 or MRP), the Operations Brief will be conducted in the classroom or in the warehouse area to support physical distancing. Any/all additional deployment guidance related to COVID will be discussed/shared at the briefing.

MOBILIZATION:

General US&R operations guidance and UT-TF1 travel planning shall remain the same. Noted exceptions and guidance related to COVID shall also apply.

During transportation and throughout the deployment Medical Screening will occur daily and at a time and interval as determined by the TFL. It will be critical to quickly discover exposures or progressing illness in each member so that steps can be taken to ensure the overall health of the task force.

Avoid the use of hotels or restaurants if possible. MREs may be the main source of nutrition during this time.

BoO will be set up to support recommendations listed in this guidance and other referenced guidance listed in this document.

The TFL, MTM, TFSO, PTM, and LTM shall determine the best method for isolating an individual who becomes ill during the deployment.

BASE OF OPERATIONS:

General US&R operations guidance shall remain the same. Noted exceptions and additional guidance related to COVID shall also apply. The following controls will be enforced at the UT-TF1 BoO:

- Restrict access to UT-TF1 personnel only
- Single point of entry with a decontamination corridor
- Required handwashing
- Hand sanitizer or handwashing stations, with a focus on dining and latrine areas
- Provide facilities/means for daily medical screening
- Planned, dedicated facilities for quarantine and isolation, as needed
- Schedule regular cleaning and disinfecting of BoO facilities and equipment
- Boot cleaning and enclosed stations to change clothing
- Meals will be taken in non-congregate settings

OPERATIONS:

General US&R operations guidance shall remain the same throughout the event or deployment. Noted exceptions and additional guidance related to COVID shall also apply. Throughout any/all ops cycles, members are to adhere to the following:

- Maintain proper PPE as required by MTM and SO
- Practice good hygiene
- Practice six-foot social distancing from the public unless performing rescue or assistance
- UT-TF1 members are prohibited from accepting meals, other goods that are not supplied by logs
- Crews/squads should expect to avoid convoying or working with others outside of their assigned group/area
- Avoid congregating and consider separation of functional groups (plans from search/rescue)
- Ensure PPE checks (emphasis on respiratory) prior to beginning each shift
- Decon tools and vehicles after use, and at least once daily

Outside units/force multipliers that are assigned to UT-TF1 shall adhere to this guidance. General US&R demob guidance shall remain the same. Noted exceptions and guidance related to COVID shall also apply.

DEMOBILIZATION:

- Clean and stow vehicles, equipment and personal gear as directed by LTM
- Maintain physical distancing and hygiene practices, especially before meals

- A final Medical Screening will be conducted prior to the final brief before departure
- If members become sick after returning home or has a known exposure, the following steps are recommended:
 - Member quarantine, post-incident
 - Post incident medical assistance, if needed
 - Notification to their employer and the UT-TF1 Program Manager
 - Follow members agency exposure procedures
 - Document exposure on DOL forms (assistance from UT-TF1 staff)
- UT-TF1 Program Manager will coordinate actions with FEMA US&R Branch if a post-deployment medical directive is not available.

Appendix A

CDC Definition of Risk is outlined most specifically for Health Care Professionals. The CDC defines the following risk categories of exposure:

High	Prolonged close contact between a person with COVID-19 (beginning 48 hours before onset of symptoms) and provider. BOTH were not wearing source protection, facemask or respirator. No facial covering.
Medium	Prolonged close contact between a person with COVID-19 (beginning 48 hours before onset of symptoms) WITH source protection or facemask. Provider WITHOUT wearing cloth face covering or facemask. Provider with respirator is considered <i>Low Risk</i> .
Low	Brief or prolonged close contact with patients (beginning 48 hours before onset of symptoms) WITH source protection or facemask. Provider WITH respirator or facemask.

OSHA Examples of Emergency Response Tasks Associated with Exposure Risk Level

Lower (caution)	Performing administrative duties in nonpublic areas of work sites, such as police or fire stations, away from other staff members.
Medium	Interacting, including as part of law enforcement or rescue operations, with members of the general public, who are not known or suspected COVID-19 patients.
High	Entering the home of a person suspected of having or known to have COVID-19, including when an occupant of the home reports signs and symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Follow-on questioning to occur at medical check station to determine/confirm risk.
Very High	Performing aerosol-generating procedures (e.g., cardiopulmonary resuscitation, intubation) on known or suspected COVID-19 patients. Follow-on questioning to occur at medical check station to determine/confirm risk.

FEMA USAR also defines risk as close contact with a family member or someone in your home that has tested positive. These exposures do not automatically disqualify you from participation, but will need further evaluation from our Medical/Program staff.

Note: A minimum of source protection shall be worn for low and medium level of exposures. A minimum of a NIOSH-certified disposable N95 filtering facepiece respirator shall be worn in high levels of exposure. A minimum of a N95 and eye protection shall be worn for any personnel present for or performing aerosol-generating procedures, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).