



The Indiana National Guard in collaboration with the state agency, the Office of the Adjutant General, worked diligently to respond to COVID-19. The Indiana National Guard activated more than 360 Guardsmen under state active-duty orders and nearly 1,600 under federal orders to respond to COVID-19. The Indiana National Guard and adjutant general's office supported the COVID-19 response in a number of different capacities. Below are a few examples:

I. Indiana Department of Correction

Approximately 400 Guardsmen supported the Indiana Department of Correction at the Pendleton Correctional Complex, Westville Correctional Facility, and the Plainfield Commissary Warehouse due to COVID-19 related circumstances prompting correctional officers to utilize personal and sick leave. Soldiers augmented security personnel with myriad of operations such as exterior patrols, interior escorts, and security assignments for offenders in local hospitals as well as medical support on site. Medical personnel supported healthcare professionals inside the facilities for the medical care and treatment of offenders, as well as documentation and distribution of offender medications. Service members loaded, packaged, and prepared items for delivery to outlying facilities to fulfill offender orders: 51,679 orders filled and 1,385,327 items picked.

II. COVID-19 Testing Support

In order to facilitate COVID-19 testing, the Indiana National Guard supported Indiana State Department of Health with community-based testing support. This included stationary, mobile and walk-up testing sites, long term care facility testing, and the IU Fairbanks School of Public Health study. Guardsmen supported more than 75 stationary and over 300 mobiles testing sites.

Twenty-three Indiana armories throughout the state received equipment and medical personnel to support a testing contract that was executed by the state with OPTUM. The National Guard supported the contractor and ensured the facility was opened and cleaned according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations resulting in over 48,000 tests administered.

Five Medical Augmentation Packages consisting of 36 civilian providers and nurses supporting 50 temporary bed packages augmented by the National Guard to rapidly deploy to support surges in areas throughout Indiana. The intent is to care for patients with limited care requirements, but still requiring some minor nursing supervision on a short term basis. These packages have not been activated and remain on standby.

During April and June, 96 guardsmen supported the IU Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health study. Medics drew blood to test for antibodies, performed COVID nasal swabs and provided general purpose support at 16 sites statewide. Over 8,000 individuals were tested during both phases, aiding in the initiative to understand the prevalence of COVID-19 across the state.

The National Guard supported immediate response testing efforts with up to 10 medics to conduct COVID-19 testing for industrial plants such NORCO, in Elkhart and food processing plants, such as Farbest in Huntingburg, IN, and Indiana Meat Packers in Delphi, IN.



Guardsmen supported COVID-19 testing for approximately 55,000 long term care facility staff members during the month of June. Over 150 sites were visited to provide equipment and supplies, assist with registration and to conduct COVID testing. Seventy-four service members worked with Indiana State Department of Health and OPTUM employees to assist with delivery of test kits and personal protective equipment, assist administratively with running of OPTUM reports by facility by pre-registration data for on-site label production.

III. Patient Transport Teams

The Indiana National Guard collaborated with Ascension St. Vincent to develop procedures and teams to transport medical patients between facilities in the event of over taxed emergency service vehicles. The Indiana State Department of Health, and National Guard placed four teams in each Indiana Department of Homeland Security district. The teams consisted of up to 6 personnel, to include medics and drivers to provide Basic Life Support Patient Transport through the use of government owned vans and military ambulances.

IV. Food Banks

More than 430 soldiers and airmen assisted 12 food banks throughout Indiana, ensuring Hoosiers financially impacted by COVID-19 had nutritional meals available to them. Stability at food banks was crippled due to a volunteer workforce that was urged to remain home. Guardsmen picked, sorted, and even assisted with distribution of nearly 30 million meals through three mega pantry events, more than 1,000 mobile distribution sites while supporting daily food bank and pantry operations.

V. Primary Election

In order to support the Indiana Department of Homeland Security and Indiana Secretary of state in efforts to provide additional safety to the election staff and voters, 30 guardsmen loaded and distributed pallets of personal protective equipment to all 92 counties throughout Indiana in preparation for the Primary Election.

VI. Bureau of Motor Vehicles

In order to support the re-opening of the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles, 20 guardsmen provided transportation and distribution of sneeze guards to 131 locations throughout the state.

VII. Personal Protective Equipment

The general's office awarded orders for more than 170,000 masks -- including disposable, reusable, and N95 -- and more than 56,000 pair of gloves from nine Indiana vendors that would be able to supply the agency within the required timeframes.

VIII. Hotels/Food

During the first few days of the epidemic, financial and contracting offices mobilized teams to make contact with hotels and food vendors that were still operating in order to feed and shelter



activated troops for COVID-19 response. More than 1,000 hotel rooms across 18 Indiana counties and 15 food vendors from Chicago to Bloomington were used to house and feed our Indiana National Guardsman.

Due to the overwhelming logistical requirement for this response the contracting and financial teams were available seven days per week in order to respond to the ever changing requirements on the ground.

IX. Warehouse

The state warehouse battled increased demand, a broken supply chain, and constant backorders. During the early stages of the response two new requisition measures were implemented to first minimize hoarding and unnecessary depletion of warehouse inventory and second to provide an additional layer of oversight for supply orders. Still, all orders were filled and ready within 24 hours of receiving the request. Additionally the new process reduced person-to-person contact.

Here are a few warehouse inventory stats comparing 2019 with 2020 (March 1 – June 30) timeframes:

- 65 percent increase in order request and fulfillment
- 55 percent increase in non-sanitizing and disinfectant supplies requested and delivered
- 800 percent increase in personal protective equipment, and sanitizing and disinfectant supplies requested and delivered

X. Conclusion

The Indiana National Guard and Adjutant General's Office responded to COVID-19 in an efficient manner without reducing operations or suspending any policies or laws. The Indiana National Guard and Adjutant General's Office are constantly reevaluating and preparing for future missions. Our mission is to generate, sustain and employ fully manned, equipped, trained and expertly-led units in order to defend, protect and secure our communities, state and nation; and provide a premier training, testing, and force generating environment. During peace times, the Indiana National Guard assists local law enforcement and agencies during emergencies such as COVID-19 under direction of the governor. At this time, the Indiana National Guard nor the general's office have recommendations for repealing or modifying any regulations or laws.