



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FGI to Establish Committee and Develop *Guidelines* for Health and Residential Care Facilities During Emergency Conditions

ST. LOUIS – The Facility Guidelines Institute (FGI) has received numerous requests for guidance on setting up temporary facilities and adapting existing facilities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. While we don't want to add to the “noise” of information currently circulating, we do believe FGI has a responsibility to respond to this need by doing what we do best: establishing baseline planning and design standards for health and long-term care facilities. Therefore, FGI is convening a special committee to assemble design guidance for facilities during emergency situations caused by weather, pandemics, wildfires, and other emergency situations.

The committee will be responsible for creating a white paper with draft *Guidelines* requirements and lessons learned from past local and national emergencies such as COVID-19. This white paper will become the basis for a new *Guidelines* standard on design of facilities that can readily be adapted during emergency conditions. Our goal is to have the peer-reviewed white paper available by the end of this summer and to release the supplemental *Guidelines* standard with the 2022 *Guidelines* edition in early 2022.

- **Short-term goal.** Continuing to operate within our mission is how FGI believes it can be most helpful during this pandemic. FGI will work with government agencies and our partner organizations to write a white paper that can help health and long-term care organizations plan for emergency conditions in the future. The committee will conduct a review of the fast-paced temporary solutions currently being implemented in an effort to provide guidance on which interventions are helpful and which are potentially harmful to staff, patients, and long-term care residents.
- **Long-term goal.** FGI's mission is to “establish and promote consensus-based guidelines and publications, advised by research, to advance quality health care.” To fulfill this mission, we follow a time-tested (40-year) standards development process in which the *Guidelines for Design and Construction* documents are revised by a committee of multidisciplinary experts (including clinicians, architects, engineers, infection preventionists, code enforcement officials, and facility managers), vetted by the health and residential care communities at-large, and adopted by state and federal agencies and private accrediting organizations. It is FGI's intent to publish a new standard that follows our rigorous, multidisciplinary process. As more data on the COVID-19 pandemic becomes available, we'll rely on the strength of this process and a committee of subject matter experts to review, evaluate, and adapt that information for use by the health and residential care communities.

In the midst of the pandemic, everyone is looking for answers on how to adapt the built environment to respond to the crisis. It will take time to evaluate the efficacy of the interventions being deployed in facilities across the nation, but FGI—working with our partner organizations—is committed to taking the lessons from this pandemic and applying them to a new *Guidelines* standard that will help health care organizations safely and efficiently navigate emergency or epidemic conditions that may arise in the future.

About the Facility Guidelines Institute

The Facility Guidelines Institute is a not-for-profit corporation founded to provide leadership and continuity to the *Guidelines for Design and Construction* revision process. FGI coordinates development of the *Guidelines* documents using a multidisciplinary, consensus-based process and provides ancillary services that encourage and improve their application and use. FGI invests revenue derived from sales of the *Guidelines* in research, the activities of the next revision cycle, and publication of other materials.

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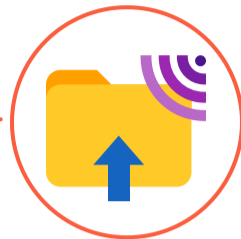
Developing an

FGI Guidelines for Emergency Conditions



1 Before 2020

Health and residential care organizations and their professional staffs looked to designers and standards for information.



2 Current conditions

Designers and health care organizations seek data on facility adaptations in the absence of a design standard for emergency conditions.



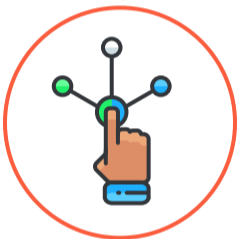
3 Next steps

A new FGI committee reviews relevant research, including qualitative and quantitative findings, to garner insights.



4 Brainstorm with lenses

The committee generates a list of potential emergency situations and facility types likely to be impacted by them.



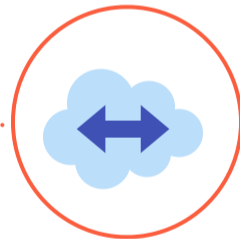
5 Consolidate

Available resources and information are harnessed to create a white paper.



6 Release white paper

FGI issues a white paper with guidance on designing health and residential care facilities that can adapt during emergency conditions.



7 Gather feedback

FGI seeks input on draft requirements in the white paper from the health and residential care communities.



9 Publish new Guidelines standard

FGI releases new *Guidelines* for design of facilities that can adapt during emergency conditions.



8 Refine to create new standard

The committee reviews public and professional responses and incorporates feedback into a new *Guidelines* publication.