



Homeless Service Provider Guidance for Prevention and Management of COVID-19

Interim Guidance for Homeless Service Providers

Updated: October 20, 2021

On June 15, 2021 the State of California moved [Beyond the Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#) and eliminated the color-coded tiering system that regulated business and social activities for counties.

Contra Costa Health Services has developed new guidance for use by providers and staff serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness. In alignment with California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Center for Disease Control (CDC), this document should be used by homeless service providers to assist in the planning and response efforts to prevent and manage the spread of COVID-19. This guidance is based on what is currently known about coronavirus and applies to both vaccinated and unvaccinated people in shelters/interim housing, day shelters or drop-in centers, including providers that prepare communal meals.

These recommendations are posted online at <https://cchealth.org/coronavirus> and will be updated as new information becomes available.

Interim Guidance for Homeless Service Providers

In accordance with guidelines from CDPH and the CDC, it is recommended that people should continue to mask and maintain physical distance regardless of vaccination status.

Masking:	People are always required to wear a surgical mask or cloth mask or other cloth covering while in the facility. <i>Residents are not required to wear a mask while they are in their single occupancy sleeping quarters.*</i>
Physical Distancing:	People shall practice physical distancing by remaining at least 6 feet apart when outside of their individual rooms.
Transportation:	Transporting clients in vehicles (where 6ft distance is not possible) can be done safely when both driver and passengers are masked. <i>If transporting from a healthcare center, driver must be vaccinated**</i>
Capacity Limits:	There are no pre-determined capacity limits at facilities if physical distancing requirements of at least 6ft are observed.



**Rooms/units can be shared if all adult household members are 14 days post final dose in their vaccination series*

*** Reference [Mitigating Risk When Transporting Passengers](#) for additional information*

Non-congregate and congregate shelters have access to rapid COVID antigen tests. **All new clients must take a rapid COVID test prior to entry.** If client/household member tests positive, they will need to complete quarantine prior to entry.*

For Congregate shelters:

Conduct daily symptom screening for all residents regardless of vaccination status**. If symptomatic, and/or they have been exposed to anyone who tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 48 hours, please instruct resident to isolate and refer to the PUI/COVID+ isolation hotel at 925- 500-0042 (no rapid test recommended).*

For Non-Congregate shelters/hotels:

If any resident is symptomatic**, instruct resident to isolate and refer to the PUI/COVID+ isolation hotel at 925- 500-0042. If patient is a close contact and asymptomatic, instruct patient to get tested (HCH onsite clinic if available or County testing site) and isolate in room until results are received, and isolation instructions are provided.*

For the most up-to-date guidance for the testing process, please go to <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/get-tested>

**Reference [Guidance for Suspected or Confirmed COVID Cases](#) for more information on what to do for a suspected or confirmed COVID case*

***Reference attached symptom screening addendum*

GENERAL MEASURES THAT REMAIN GOOD PRACTICE

- **Encourage staff and consumers to [Get Vaccinated](#)** against COVID-19. All people ages 12 and older are eligible to get vaccinated through Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS), even if they do not live or work in Contra Costa County.
- **Educate staff and residents** on the novel coronavirus, symptoms, how it is spread, and preventive measures that can reduce the spread of viruses like COVID-19.
- **Practice physical distancing** by remaining at least 6 feet apart from other persons.
- **Maintain a supply of necessary cleaning supplies**, personal protective equipment, and signage around hygiene and symptoms of illness.



- **Continue frequent facility cleanings.**
- **Actively monitor** residents and staff in the facility who may have fever and respiratory symptoms.
- **Identify private rooms** or create spaces that can be used to isolate individuals who may be sick.
- **Stay up to date** with local and state COVID-19 activity and developments from [Contra Costa Health Services](#).

Specific guidance on homeless service facility cleaning, ventilation, physical layout, and signage considerations can be found on the [CDC website](#).

Employers should refer to the Cal/OSHA website for [COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards \(ETS\)](#) that may be applicable to them.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Center for Disease Control

- [Interim Guidance for Homeless Service Providers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) | CDC](#)
- [List of COVID-19 Resources for Homeless Populations](#)

California Department of Public Health

- [Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings \(Takes Effect June 15, 2021\)](#)
- [Beyond the Blueprint for Industry and Business Sectors - Effective June 15](#)
- [Health Care Worker Vaccine Requirement](#)

Cal/OSHA

- [Requirements to Protect Workers from Coronavirus](#)

Department of Housing and Urban Development

- [Preventing and Managing the Spread of Infectious Disease for People Experiencing Homelessness \(PDF\)](#)
- [Preventing and Managing the Spread of Infectious Disease within Shelters \(PDF\)](#)
- [Preventing and Managing the Spread of Infectious Disease within Encampments \(PDF\)](#)

National Healthcare for the Homeless

- [Pandemic Influenza Guidance for Homeless Shelters and Homeless Service Providers](#)

Contra Costa Health Services

- [Resources for Homeless Providers](#)



SYMPTOM SCREENING ADDENDUM

Symptom Screening Questions:

1. **Have you experienced any new, unusual, or unexplained symptoms in the past 48 hours:**
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea

2. **In the past 14 days have you been exposed to anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or has symptoms of COVID-19?**

