



QUICK SHEET FOR SHELTERS TO PLAN, PREPARE AND RESPOND TO COVID-19.

Michigan.gov/Coronavirus

Persons experiencing homelessness may be at risk for infection during an outbreak of COVID-19. Homeless service providers should take action to protect their staff, clients, and guests.

Take action to prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses.

Promote the practice of everyday preventative actions.

- Encourage staff and volunteers to stay home if they are sick.
- Staff and volunteers should not return to work until they are free of fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine.
- Provide adequate supplies for [good hand hygiene](#), including easy access to handwashing stations, soap, paper towels, and alcohol-based sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol (especially near food and restrooms).
- [Post information](#) in common areas to remind employees, guests, and volunteers to use good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.

Perform routine environmental cleaning. Routinely clean and disinfect all frequently touched surfaces and objects, such as doorknobs, phones, and light switches (especially in common spaces).

Implement practices to slow the transmission of COVID-19 within shelter facilities.

- Minimize, where possible, close contact and sharing of objects such as cups, food, and drink.
- Limit visitors to the facility.
- If staff are handling client belongings, they should use disposable gloves.
- Assess all guests daily and upon entry for symptoms of fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

Guests with mild or moderate respiratory illness, should be separated from guests who are not ill.

- Quickly move guests who are ill to an area isolated from the rest of the facility.
- Consider designating a sick room. Beds in this area should be placed 6 feet apart or head-to-toe with beds 3 feet apart. Mobile screens can be used to encourage compliance with separation areas.
- Guests who are ill should eat meals separate (such as in their room) from guests who are not ill.
- If guests who are ill need to move through common areas, they should perform hand hygiene, [wear a surgical mask](#), and minimize time in those areas.

Prepare for a COVID-19 outbreak in your community.

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Exchange published extensive guidance in an infectious disease toolkit to help homelessness service providers prepare their systems to respond to COVID-19.

Preventing and Managing the Spread of Infectious Disease:

- [For People Experiencing Homelessness](#),
- [Within Shelters](#), and
- [Within Encampments](#).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has provided [Interim Guidance for Homeless Shelters](#) to plan, prepare, and respond to COVID-19.

Develop or update shelter emergency operations plan.

- Identify key contacts at the [local health department](#) and healthcare facilities.
- Include contingency plans for increased absenteeism caused by employee illness or by illness in employees' family members.
- Connect to community-wide emergency planning.

Determine when to transfer guests who are ill to the hospital – and how they will be transferred.

If you plan to transfer an ill guest to a higher level of care due to worsening respiratory status, notify Emergency Medical Services (EMS) that the guest has an undiagnosed respiratory infection.

Create a communication plan for distributing timely and accurate information.

- Identify everyone in the chain of communication and establish systems for sharing information.
- Identify and address potential language, cultural, and disability barriers associated with communicating COVID-19 information to workers, volunteers, and those you serve.

Special considerations for people experiencing homelessness.

- People experiencing homelessness may be at increased risk of adverse mental health outcomes.
- It is important to remember that stigma and discrimination occur when people associate an infectious disease with a population or nationality. COVID-19 does not target people from specific populations, ethnicities, or racial backgrounds.