KING COUNTY COVID-19 INFORMATION FOR HOMELESS SERVICE PROVIDERS

Public Health
Seattle & King County

COVID-19 Everyday Operations vs. Enhanced Infection Prevention (IP) Strategies (CDC)

	Everyday Operations • In place **at all time**s	Enhanced IP Strategies • Use any time **COVID-19 is spreading in the facility** or when increased risk of this • Use when County hospital admission level=**high**	Resources *PHSKC=Public Health - Seattle & King County*
Vaccinations	• Encourage staff, volunteers, and residents to stay up to date on vaccinations (COVID-19 and flu) and get boosters when available		• Getting vaccinated in King County • Request vaccine clinic: email CHS.HEART@kingcounty.gov (limited availability)
Masking	• Stock up on personal protective equipment (PPE) • Offer well-fitting masks/respirators to all and recommend use in indoor public spaces	• Require all staff, volunteers, and residents to wear masks indoors, regardless of vaccination status	
Ventilation	**Ensure acceptable indoor air quality** • Ensure HVAC system is maintained and operates properly • Open windows and doors when weather permits and use fans to improve airflow • Add air filtration like HEPA air cleaners	**Increase/improve air quality as much as possible** • Set HVAC fan to "on" position instead of "auto" • Ensure restroom fans operating at full capacity • Turn on kitchen/cooking area exhaust fans • Hold group activities outdoors, if possible	• Improving Air Quality (PHSKC) • Request free PHSKC technical assistance here • Improve Indoor Air flyer (PHSKC) • Ventilation in Buildings | CDC
Testing and Treatment	• Stock up on test kits if able • Encourage testing on day 5 after exposure of any residents, volunteers, and staff who have been exposed to COVID-19 • If testing onsite is not possible, advise exposed/symptomatic people to seek offsite testing • Refer ill people for medical evaluation and treatment when applicable	• Consult with PHSKC on whether to start routine screening testing, especially when staff, volunteers, or residents are at high risks of severe illness from COVID-19. Routine testing can help identify infections early, which is important for early isolation and for people who are eligible for treatment.	• Order free over-the-counter (OTC) test kits through PHSKC at this link (through ~Dec 2023) • To request a free onsite mobile testing event through InMotion (through July 2024), email COVIDCaseReview@kingcounty.gov • DOH free telehealth appointments for COVID-19 treatment
Promote Infection Control and Facility Cleaning	• Maintain supplies for hand hygiene, cleaning, and disinfection • Clean high touch surfaces regularly • Encourage proper hand hygiene, cough etiquette, and social distancing	• Clean high touch surfaces more frequently • Consider using disinfectant on high touch surfaces in addition to cleaning	• Safer Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting Guide (PHSKC) • Sanitation and Hygiene Guide (PHSKC) • Stop Germs, Stay Healthy! (PHSKC)
Isolation Onsite and Social Distancing Considerations	• Prepare to accept and isolate residents with or suspected to have COVID-19 • Strategies will depend on unique factors to each setting. Any measures to maximize physical distancing provide benefit **along with improved ventilation, masking, and other measures above**	• Ideal = place infectious resident in separate room with private bathroom or cohorted with others who are COVID positive • When unable to place in a separate room, **to the extent possible**, designate an area of the shelter space for those infected with COVID • Locate portable air cleaner close to COVID-positive resident	• Increase access to hand hygiene supplies • Determine provision of food, like designating someone to deliver to person isolating • Maximize physical distancing in common spaces to the extent possible • Position beds head-to-toe with as much distance between heads as possible

Isolation and Quarantine Guidance

When to end ISOLATION Isolation = when someone is infected with COVID-19 and stays away from others to prevent spread (Date of symptom onset or date of positive test if no symptoms = Day 0)		
Conventional Isolation Best practice with lowest risk for transmission	**Shortened Isolation** For use when conventional method is not feasible	**Emergency** For use when isolation is NOT feasible, least restrictive and higher risk for transmission
• **Ends 10 days* after symptom onset (or date of positive test if no symptoms); AND** • 24 hours fever-free, and other symptoms • improving; **AND** • Infected person wears a <u>well-fitting mask</u> for 10 days when around others	• **Ends 7 days* after symptom onset (or date of positive test if no symptoms); AND** • Negative COVID-19 test; ** **AND** • 24 hours fever-free, and other symptoms improving; **AND** • Individual not hospitalized and doesn't have weakened immune system • Infected person wears a <u>well-fitting mask</u> for 10 days when around others	• Infected person wears a <u>well-fitting mask</u> for 10 days when around others and encouraged to distance from others as much as possible • Begin testing those exposed and with symptoms (at day 5), if able • If you are faced with critical staffing levels or are having difficulties isolating a resident and need support, please contact PHSKC

* People who work but do not live in these settings should not go to their workplace for the full isolation period (10 or 7 days). When not at work, staff can refer to guidance for the <u>general public</u>.

**Either a rapid antigen or NAAT/PCR test may be used. If using a rapid test, two negative tests must be obtained, one on day 6 (no sooner) and one 24-48 hours later prior to returning to work (for staff) or ending isolation (for residents). If using a NAAT/PCR, a single test must be obtained within 48 hours prior to ending isolation.

QUARANTINE Quarantine = when someone without symptoms stays apart from others after close contact to someone with COVID-19
Quarantine • No longer recommended for staff, volunteers, or residents but sites can implement their own quarantine protocols, especially as an enhanced strategy
Quarantine Protocol <u>Considerations</u>: • Length: 5-10 days (Date of exposure = Day 0) • Wear a <u>well-fitting mask</u> for 10 days after the exposure when around others Have employees work remotely if able or work in an isolated environment

Resources and information on prevention strategies:

- <u>COVID-19 Guidance for Non-Healthcare Businesses and Organizations (wa.gov)</u>
- <u>What to do if you were potentially exposed to someone with COVID-19</u> (WA DOH, pg. 2)

Contact PHSKC

- **Report** outbreaks <u>online</u> or by phone at **206-296-4774** (Outbreak = 5 or more cases in a 14-day period or 20% of individuals in a core group)
- **Call us if you need assistance with this guidance** (response may be slower during high volume times)

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