
Infection Prevention Basics for Homeless Shelters

Use as a companion to LACDPH Guideline for Preparation for COVID-19 in Homeless Shelters

Education/Signage Educating Staff and Residents:

- ✓ **Post signs at facility entrance** instructing visitors and shelter guests to alert staff if they have symptoms of respiratory illness (fever, cough etc.).
- ✓ **Assess all guests** daily and upon entry for symptoms.
- ✓ **Assure shelter guests** that the facility is here to protect them, including answering their questions and explaining what they can do to protect themselves and their fellow guests.
- ✓ **Post signs on how to appropriately wear items such as masks, and gloves.**

Hand Hygiene/ Infection Control:

- ✓ **Reinforce frequent hand hygiene:** use soap and water for **at least 20 seconds**. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- ✓ **Cover coughs and sneezes** with a tissue, and then dispose of the tissue and clean your hands immediately.
- ✓ **Provide a facemask** for those who are symptomatic and separate from other guests.
- ✓ **Have mask and gloves** for non-healthcare staff who are working with any guests who are ill.

Cohorting of Shelter Residents:

- ✓ **Designate an area** in the shelter for those exhibiting symptoms that is separate from other areas at the shelter; try to set aside a separate dining area and bathrooms that can be exclusively used by those who are ill.
- ✓ Try to assign a dedicated group of staff to support guests who are ill to limit possible exposures and ensure that staff with appropriate training are adhering to precautions.
- ✓ **Minimize close contact and the sharing of objects** such as cups, food, and drink.

Environmental Cleaning:

- ✓ **Routinely clean and disinfect all frequently touched surfaces** such as doorknobs, bannisters, countertops, faucet handles, and phones.
- ✓ **Provide tissues and no touch receptacles** for disposal in restrooms and common areas.