

## Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Assessment Tool for Homeless Shelters

<b>Preparing Facility for COVID-19</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensure signage is posted at the facility entrance instructing visitors and clients to alert staff if they have fever, cough, or shortness of breath. <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/></span></li>   <li>▪ Check all clients daily upon entry for fever, cough, or shortness of breath. Have a separate area where screened clients who are ill can go upon entering the facility to avoid possible exposures to others who are not ill. <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/></span></li>   <li>▪ Inform clients about COVID-19. Ensure there are educational materials available at the facility in various languages about COVID-19. <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/></span></li>   <li>▪ Encourage symptomatic staff to get tested. Inform staff to stay home for at least 5 days if they test positive and/or have a fever, cough, or shortness of breath. Ensure sick leave policies allow employees to stay home if they have symptoms of respiratory infection. <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/></span></li> </ul>	
<b>Steps to Take to Lower the Risk Of COVID-19 in the Facility</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Encourage clients and staff to get vaccinated against COVID-19 and stay up to date with boosters by offering vaccine clinics onsite. To request a vaccination team or clinic at your facility, please complete this <a href="#">form</a>. <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/></span></li>   <li>▪ Conduct screening with rapid antigen tests. If you need rapid tests, please submit requests to DPH via the online <a href="#">form</a>. <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/></span></li>   <li>▪ When the County is in Medium or High CDC COVID-19 Community Levels, universal masking inside shelters is required for all staff and clients, except when eating, showering, and sleeping. Masks should fit and filter well.</li>   <li>▪ All close contacts should wear a highly protective mask (e.g., a well-fitting medical mask or respirator) around others while indoors through Day 10 after last exposure. A close contact is anyone who shared airspace with a case for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period while the case was infectious (for example, three separate 5-min exposures for a total of 15 minutes).               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If symptomatic clients need to move through areas used by clients without symptoms, the symptomatic clients should always wear a well-fitting medical mask or respirator.</li> <li>b. Staff interacting with symptomatic individuals should wear a fit-tested N95 or respirator during close contact with symptomatic clients.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

- Practice good infection control

- a. Hand hygiene stations (sinks with antibacterial soap and alcohol gel products) should be readily available throughout the facility, especially at the entrances of the facility. Make sure tissues are available and any sink is well-stocked with soap and paper towels for hand washing.
- b. Ensure employees clean their hands according to [CDC guidelines](#) including before and after contact with clients, after contact with contaminated surfaces or equipment, and after removing items such as masks, gloves, and gowns.
- c. Educate and remind clients to perform hand hygiene throughout the day, particularly after using the restroom and prior to eating their meals. Ensure there are no shared utensils, cups, or linens.
- d. Position a trash can near the exit inside any client dorms to make it easy for employees to discard items such as gloves, masks and gowns.
- e. Increase the frequency of environmental cleaning being done with EPA-approved disinfectants consistent with recommendations for use.

Beds should be placed at least 6 feet apart and positioned head-to-toe, with heads positioned as far apart as possible. When positioning beds 6 feet apart is not possible, beds must be spaced at least 3 feet apart with a head-to-toe arrangement.

Steps to Take if There Are Clients/Individuals in the Facility with Respiratory Illness Symptoms	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any clients with fever, cough, or shortness of breath should be isolated in their room or a designated separate area.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Symptomatic clients should be placed with other symptomatic individuals and away from asymptomatic individuals. Each facility should designate a specific area to house symptomatic clients away from others and clients should be instructed to stay in this designated area. If symptomatic individuals must travel to other areas of the facility, they should first practice hand hygiene and put on a facemask.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you plan to transfer the client to higher level of care due to worsening respiratory status, notify EMS that the client has an undiagnosed respiratory infection.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you have COVID-19 cases or symptomatic clients who cannot be isolated onsite during their illness, consider transfer to the medical shelters for quarantine/isolation housing. Call DPH’s referral line at 833-596-1009 (8AM to 8PM daily).</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Additional Resources

- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LAC DPH) Guidance for Homeless Shelters: <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/docs/homelessness/GuidanceHomelessShelters.pdf>
- LAC DPH Coronavirus Disease 2019 PPE Assistance Program: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona2019/ppe/assistance/>
- LAC DPH coronavirus website: [ph.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/](http://ph.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/)
- LAC DPH coronavirus webpage for Health Professionals Includes travel alert posters and provider checklist: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/nCorona2019.htm>
- Los Angeles Health Alert Network: LAC DPH emails priority communications to healthcare professionals through LAHAN. Topics include local or national disease outbreaks and emerging health risks: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/lahan/>
- California Department of Public Health: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx>
- CDC Guidance on Management of COVID-19 in Homeless Service Sites and in Correctional and Detention Facilities: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-correctional-settings.html>