

## Homeless Shelter Recommendations

**Purpose:** To provide updated guidance for shelters to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 among people experiencing homelessness and aid KPHD's case investigation and contact tracing efforts

**Source:** These recommendations are based on the latest recommendations for homeless shelters and congregate living facilities from the Center for Disease Control and the Washington State Department of Health.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/plan-prepare-respond.html>. Please check the CDC and WA DOH websites frequently as updates are posted often.

**Adherence:** All shelters are strongly advised to follow these recommendations at a minimum to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and to reduce the overall impact of the spread of the disease in the shelter. If possible, adhere to all KPHD and CDC recommendations.

### Highlighted CDC Shelter Recommendations – For Shelter Guests/Visitors

- **Contact information** – For all shelter guests and every visitor, use a sign-in sheet that includes the date, time and “best way to contact” info (cell phone number, email, message phone, Facebook Messenger, etc.). Maintain this information for a minimum of one month. This is integral to the health district's ability to conduct thorough case investigations and contact tracing.
- **Screening**– To minimize the length of time a contagious person may be within a facility, screen guests and visitors for symptoms and check temperature at least once a day. If guests have symptoms or a temperature above 100.0°F, initiate the COVID-19 Referral Process for Quarantine or Isolation for Community Based Facilities and notify KPHD using attached “Surveillance Line List.” If visitors have symptoms or a temperature, they should be turned away. Updated symptoms can be found on the back of this page. Screening recommendations for shelters can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/screening-clients-respiratory-infection-symptoms.html>
- **Hand washing** – Require all guests and visitors to wash hands or use hand-sanitizer every time they enter the facility, and before and after using the restroom or eating.
- **Masks (NEW as of 04/21/2020)** – All guests and visitors should wear cloth face coverings any time they are not in their room or on their bed/mat (in shared sleeping areas). Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance. Cloth face coverings should be treated as hazardous if dirty and should be laundered at least daily. It is okay to launder masks with other clothing/bedding.
- **Physical distancing** – In general sleeping areas (for those not experiencing respiratory symptoms), try to make sure client's faces are at least 6 feet apart. Align mats/beds so clients sleep head-to-toe. Set up dining chairs at least 6 feet apart. In communal areas, ensure that set-up encourages physical distancing of 6 feet or more. No buffet-style meals.
- **Common spaces** – People should always remain 6 feet apart. Minimize access to shared spaces such as lounge areas which cannot be adequately sanitized between uses. Minimize crowding in shared bathrooms by limiting the number of people allowed in the bathroom at a time (For example, only as many people as there are stalls)

## **Highlighted CDC Shelter Recommendations – For Shelter Staff/Volunteers**

- **Contact Information** – For staff/volunteers, maintain an on-site list of “best way to contact” info
- **Screening** – Screen staff/volunteers for symptoms and check temperature at start of each shift. If staff have symptoms (see below) or a temperature above 100.0°F, they should be sent home immediately. If symptoms develop while at work, the individual should isolate immediately and return home as soon as possible. If this occurs, please notify KPHD using the attached “Kitsap Shelter Surveillance Line List.”
- **Masks** – Require all staff/volunteers to wear cloth face coverings or masks at all times. Cloth masks are sufficient for staff who do not interact with sick guests and do not clean the facility.
- **Hand-washing** – Require all staff to wash hands or use hand-sanitizer every time they enter the facility, and before and after using the restroom or eating.
- **Physical distancing** – Ensure that staff can perform their duties while still maintaining physical distancing of at least 6 feet between people.
- **Other exposure** – Staff/volunteers should report if they are working any other jobs in addition to the shelter. Keep a list of these other employers and contact information on-site.

## **Updated CDC Symptoms**

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Or at least two of these symptoms:

- Fever
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

## **When to Seek Medical Attention**

If you have any of these **emergency warning signs\*** for COVID-19 get **medical attention immediately**:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion or inability to arouse
- Bluish lips or face

\*This list is not all inclusive. Please consult your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you