COVID-19
Preparedness for Ohio’s Homeless System

Friday, March 20, 2020
Webinar Information

All participants lines are muted.

Use the questions feature in the GoToWebinar control panel to submit questions.

This webinar will be posted to COHHIO’s website.

This webinar is being recorded.
Agenda

• What is COVID-19?
  • LHD Coordination and CDC Guidance
  • EMA Coordination
  • Homelessness Guidance
  • What COHHIO is Doing?
  • Resources
What is COVID-19?

Kathleen Koechlin, PhD, MPH, BSN, RN
Viral Load Suppression Nurse
kathleen.koechlin@odh.ohio.gov
Patients with COVID-19 have experienced mild to severe respiratory illness.

Symptoms* can include

FEVER

COUGH

SHORTNESS OF BREATH

*Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.

Seek medical advice if you develop symptoms, and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

For more information: [www.cdc.gov/COVID19-symptoms](http://www.cdc.gov/COVID19-symptoms)
Common Practices to Protect Yourself and Others

Wash hands often

Practice social distancing

Stay home if you’re sick

Cover coughs and sneezes

Wear a facemask if sick

Clean and disinfect regularly
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LHD Coordination and CDC Guidance

Viola Webber, BSN, RN
Hospital Preparedness Program Coordinator
Bureau of Health Preparedness
Ohio Department of Health
Local Health Department Coordination

https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/find-local-health-districts
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Interim guidance for homeless service providers to plan and respond to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

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Ohio EMA Coordination

Josh D. Vittie, MPA
Planner 3
Ohio Emergency Management Agency
Ohio Department of Public Safety
Ohio EMA Coordination

https://webeoctraining.dps.ohio.gov/ohiocountyEMADirectorList/countryemailist_web.aspx
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Immediate Recommendations

1. Ensure service continuity
2. Train staff to recognize symptoms
3. Communicate with your local Ohio Emergency Management Agency and local Public Health Department
4. Develop or update your emergency operations plan
5. Establish screening protocols
6. Make quarantine space available
7. Plan for absences and staffing challenges
8. Increase rapid exit, diversion and prevention strategies
Do the best you can until you know better.
Then, when you know better, do better.

Maya Angelou
Recommendations to Prepare Your Space

• Stock-up on sanitation supplies
• Consistently provide handwashing supplies in bathrooms, kitchens, and common areas
• Disinfect surfaces routinely
• Communicate and implement prevention strategies
• Instruct staff to use disposable gloves if handling resident/client property
Recommendations for Congregate Facilities

- Beds in sleeping areas should be at least 3 feet (6 feet) apart
- Residents sleep head-to-toe
- Identify possible area(s) for isolation or quarantine
- Day-time operations will be essential
Recommendations for Congregate Facilities

• If a possible COVID-19 case is identified, follow the plan you already established alongside your local public health department
• Limit visitors to the facility
Recommendations for Congregate Facilities

• Develop responses to keep vulnerable residents safe, if COVID-19 cases are occurring locally
• Consider staggering meal times to allow for more social distancing between residents
Recommendations for Staffing and Service Provision

- Train staff on prevention strategies and all new operations protocol
- Require staff who are ill to stay home – staff should check their temperature daily before reporting to work
- All non-essential staff should work from home
- Meetings with clients are not in-person, where possible
Recommendations for Staffing and Service Provision

- When meetings must be in-person, practice social distancing (at least 3 feet apart), or strive to have barriers in place
- Cancel meetings/services in your buildings
- Ensure access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
Recommendations for Scattered-Site Projects

- Conduct case management meetings via phone, not in-person
- Check in daily with elderly and medically vulnerable clients by phone
- Ensure that when staff are traveling, safety kits and hygiene products are provided
- Staff should wipe down car, phone and other equipment before and after each visit
Recommendations for Street Outreach

• Prioritize outreach over in-reach (shelters and fixed-sites)
• Hand out survival/hygiene kits (hand sanitizer, wipes, food and water)
• Provide educational materials about COVID-19, preventative measures and where to go if you experience symptoms or contract the virus
• Direct individuals to handwashing stations or setup portable stations
• Provide outreach kits
Recommendations for Street Outreach

- Portable toilets at all locations where people are living outside
- Develop a plan for keeping mobile outreach vehicles clean and sterile while continuing to be able to deliver services
- Distribute supplies to help those in encampments implement social distancing and self isolation
- Social Distancing (6 feet) between tents, sleeping spots, etc.
- Follow agency emergency plan
Take Care of Yourself

Self-care is the most important thing right now if we are going to make it through this time of crisis. We must be strong and healthy to do the things we need to do to fight this virus.

• Acknowledge that trauma can impact anyone
• Try to stay positive and calm -- take a break when you need it
• Create a menu of personal self-care activities
  • Eat regular, healthy meals
  • Get enough sleep
  • Take a walk
• Support each other
• Learn the symptoms
• Allow time for you and your family to recover
• Take a break from media coverage of COVID-19
• Ask for help

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What COHHIO is Doing?

• Advocacy on behalf of homeless systems and providers to the State and Federal governments
• Providing resources and training regarding COVID preparedness to providers and systems
• Collecting information about needs of providers and system leads to share with State for planning and response efforts
• Fundraising for the Pandemic Emergency fund
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Screening Tool

https://cohhio.org/boscoc/covid19/
HUD: Infectious Disease Toolkit for CoCs

https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5985/infectious-disease-toolkit-for-cocs/
HUD SNAPS

Infectious Disease Preparedness Guidance for Homeless Assistance Providers

https://www.hudexchange.info/trainings/courses/infectious-disease-preparedness-for-homeless-assistance-providers-and-their-partners
Guidance for homeless service providers to plan and respond to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Communicate Your Needs

What additional resources and supports are needed to develop and implement your COVID-19 responses?

• Do you need funding to pay for more staff to outreach to people who are unsheltered at risk?

• Do you need access to resources to help you move highly vulnerable people out of your congregate shelter and into independent housing?

• Do you need funding to help you update and improve sanitary conditions of your facilities?

Communicate needs via: Douglas.Argue@cohhio.org
For More Information Visit:

www.cohhio.org/covid-19
Thank You