

# **COVID-19**

# **Preparedness for Ohio's**

# **Homeless System**

Friday, March 20, 2020

# Webinar Information



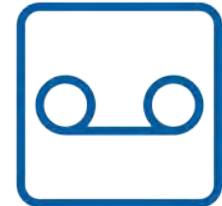
All participants  
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Use the  
questions  
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This webinar  
will be posted  
to COHHIO's  
website.



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](mailto:kathleen.koechlin@odh.ohio.gov)

**Patients with COVID-19 have experienced mild to severe respiratory illness.**

**Symptoms\* can include**

**FEVER**



**COUGH**



**\*Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.**

**SHORTNESS OF BREATH**



**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.**



CS 31252-A March 16, 2020, 1:32PM

For more information: [www.cdc.gov/COVID19-symptoms](https://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

# Agenda

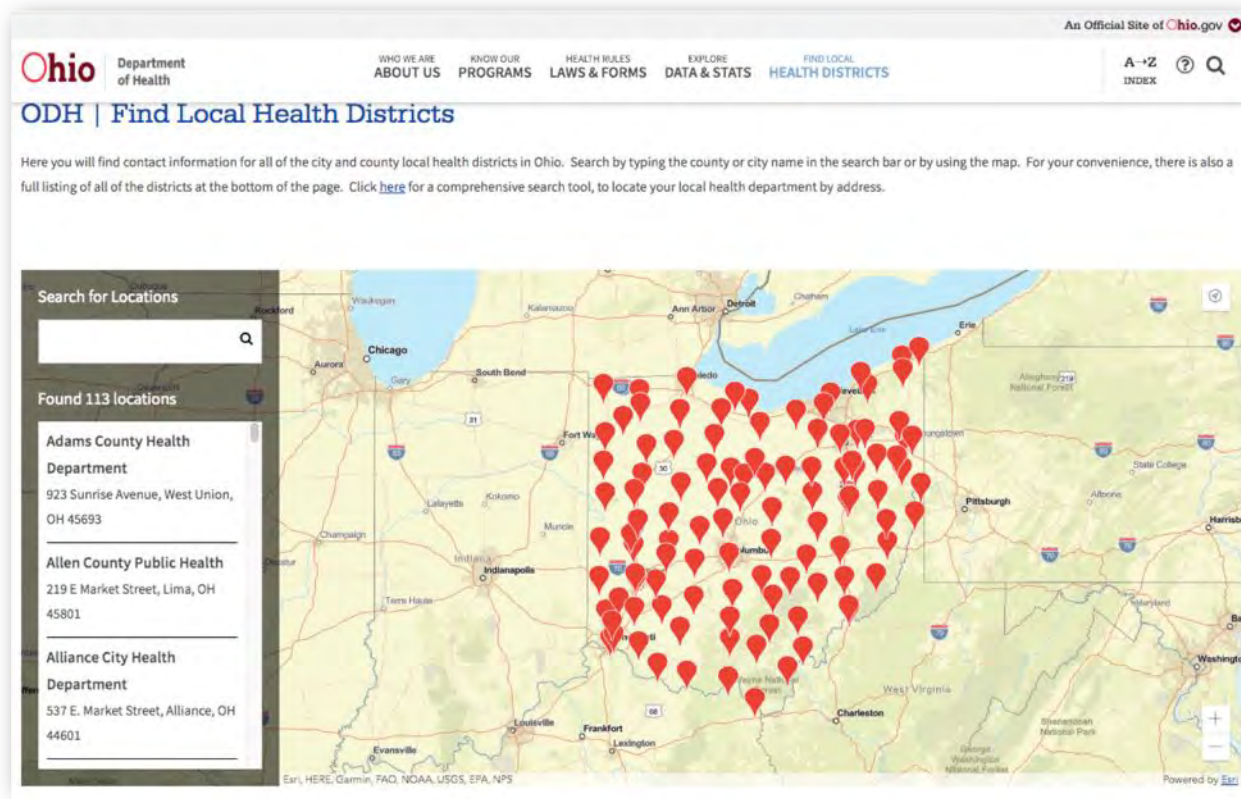
- What is COVID-19?
- **LHD Coordination and CDC Guidance**
- EMA Coordination
- Homelessness Guidance
- What COHHIO is Doing?
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# **LHD Coordination and CDC Guidance**

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

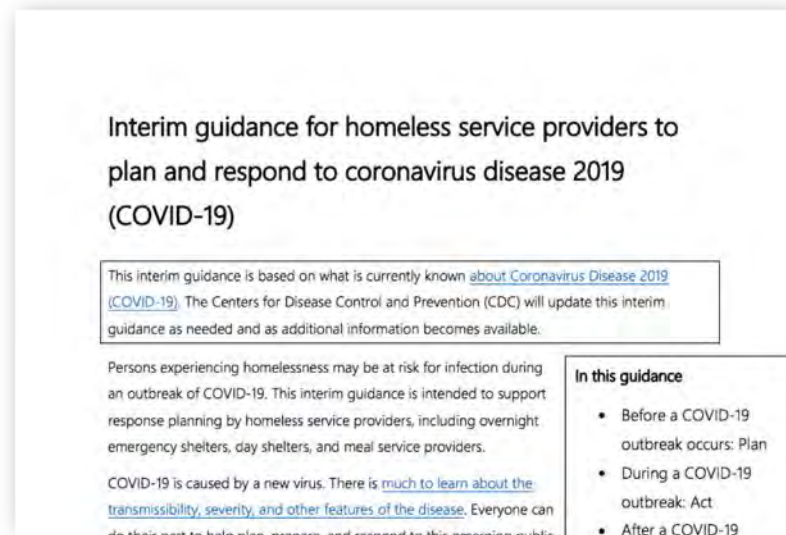
# Local Health Department Coordination



<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)



<https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Interim-Guidance-for-Homeless-Service-Providers-to-Plan-and-Respond-to-COVID-19.pdf>

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

# 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/countyemalist\\_web.aspx](https://webeoctraining.dps.ohio.gov/ohiocountyEMADirectorList/countyemalist_web.aspx)

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# Immediate Recommendations

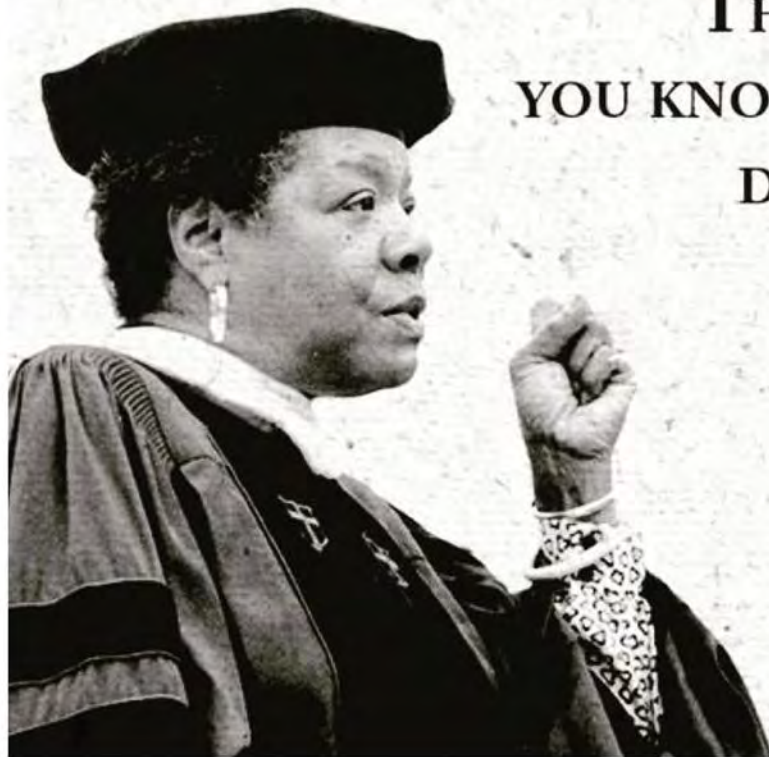


1. Ensure service continuity
2. Train staff to recognize symptoms
3. Communicate with your local Ohio Emergency Management Agency and local Public Health Department
4. Develop or update your emergency operations plan
5. Establish screening protocols
6. Make quarantine space available
7. Plan for absences 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

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/managing-stress-anxiety.html>

# Agenda

- What is COVID-19?
- LHD Coordination and CDC Guidance
- EMA Coordination
- HUD Guidance
- What COHHIO is doing?
- Resources


# 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



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Screening Tool

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) Screening Tool**

**INSTRUCTIONS**  
Use this document to screen entering clients. This information is not required to be entered in HMIS.

**DATE**  

|  |   |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|---|--|
|  | / |  | / |  |
|--|---|--|---|--|

| CLIENT NAME | HMIS CLIENT ID |
|-------------|----------------|
|             |                |

**SYMPTOMS**  
Does the client have the following signs and symptoms? Check all that apply. If client is not symptomatic, continue to *Screener Name*.

|  |
|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fever               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cough               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sore Throat         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shortness of Breath |

**SYMPTOM ONSET**  
If the client is symptomatic, answer the *Symptom Onset* questions below. If client is not symptomatic, continue to *Screener Name*.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unknown | Has the client had close contact with a person who is under investigation for COVID-19 while that person was ill? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unknown | Has the client had close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient while that case was ill?            |

<https://cohhio.org/boscoc/covid19/>

# HUD: Infectious Disease Toolkit for CoCs

The screenshot displays the HUD Exchange website interface. At the top, a dark blue header contains the text "Resources and assistance to support HUD's community partners" on the left, and "NEED HOUSING ASSISTANCE?", "Email Updates", and "Log In" on the right. Below this is a navigation bar with "HUD EXCHANGE" on the left and "Programs", "Resources" (highlighted), "Trainings", "Program Support", "Grantees", and "News" on the right. The main content area shows the resource details for the "Infectious Disease Toolkit for CoCs". It includes a "Date Published: March 2020" and "Print" and "ShareThis" buttons. The "Description" section states that the toolkit provides structure and specific examples for planning and responding to Influenza, Coronavirus, and other infectious diseases. It also includes a disclaimer: "The contents of this document, except when based on statutory or regulatory authority or law, do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies." The "Resource Links" section lists three PDF documents: "Preventing and Managing the Spread of Infectious Disease for People Experiencing Homelessness (PDF)", "Preventing and Managing the Spread of Infectious Disease within Shelters (PDF)", and "Preventing and Managing the Spread of Infectious Disease within Encampments (PDF)". The "Tags" section shows "CoC" and "ESG". On the right side, a box identifies the "Author Organization" as HUD and the "Resource Approver" as HUD Approved.

Resources and assistance to support HUD's community partners

NEED HOUSING ASSISTANCE? Email Updates Log In

HUD EXCHANGE Programs Resources Trainings Program Support Grantees News

Date Published: March 2020

Print ShareThis

### Description

Continuum of Care (CoC) and Emergency Solution Grant (ESG) funding supports homeless projects throughout the country to assist households move into sustainable housing. Families and individuals experiencing homelessness are more vulnerable to infectious diseases due to lack of access to primary care, mobility, and poor health status from extended episodes of homelessness.

This toolkit provides structure and specific examples for planning and responding to Influenza, Coronavirus, and other infectious diseases. The toolkit consists of three documents that provide information for CoC leadership, homeless service providers, and partners to utilize when planning for and responding to infectious diseases.

*The contents of this document, except when based on statutory or regulatory authority or law, do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.*

### Resource Links

- Preventing and Managing the Spread of Infectious Disease for People Experiencing Homelessness (PDF)
- Preventing and Managing the Spread of Infectious Disease within Shelters (PDF)
- Preventing and Managing the Spread of Infectious Disease within Encampments (PDF)

Tags: CoC ESG

Author Organization  
HUD

Resource Approver  
HUD Approved

<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>

# USICH

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



<https://www.usich.gov/tools-for-action/coronavirus-covid-19-resources/>

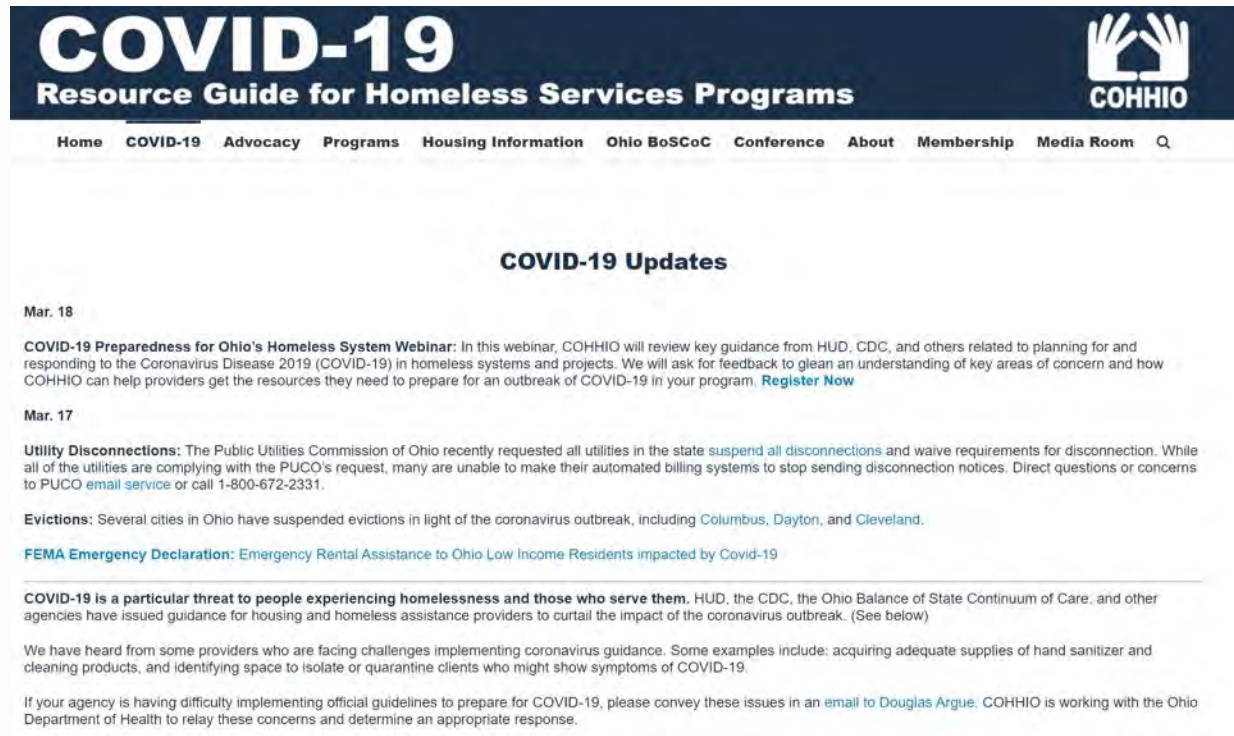
# Communicate Your Needs

**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](mailto:Douglas.Argue@cohhio.org)

# For More Information Visit:



[www.cohhio.org/covid-19](http://www.cohhio.org/covid-19)

# Thank You