



Department of Public Health

MAYOR
Dee Margo

Health Authority COVID-19 Orders for Homeless Service Providers in El Paso City-County

March 20, 2020

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Due to COVID-10's presence in El Paso County, the City of El Paso Department of Public Health Public Health Authority is issuing temporary orders to mitigate and slow the spread of the disease in Homeless Shelters ("Shelters") in El Paso City-County. These approaches are believed to be necessary to preserve the health and wellbeing of homeless shelter service providers and homeless shelter clients and guests. This Order is in line with the interim guidance for homeless service providers issued by the CDC.

This Order is effective as of Friday, March 20, 2020 effective immediately and continuing until April 3, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.

- Shelters shall stay informed about the local COVID-19 situation and seek up-to-date information from Department of Public Health officials.
- Shelters shall implement everyday preventive actions and provide instructions to staff and volunteers about actions to prevent the spread of the disease spread (for example, wash hands; use hand sanitizer; avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth; avoid close contact with others).
- Shelters shall meet regularly with staff and volunteers to discuss plans to help clients implement personal preventive measures (such as washing hands; using hand sanitizer; avoiding touching eyes, nose, and mouth; avoiding close contact with others).
- Shelters shall communicate with the local health department if there is a reasonable concern that clients in your facility might have COVID-19.
- Shelters shall keep clients and guests informed about Department of Public Health recommendations to prevent disease spread and about changes to services that might be related to the outbreak. Messaging may include:
 - Posting signs at entrances and in strategic places
 - Providing instruction on hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, and cough etiquette.
 - Providing educational materials about COVID-19 for non-English speakers, as needed.

Robert Resendes - Public Health Director
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- Shelters shall monitor clients who could be at high risk for complications from COVID-19 (those who are older or have underlying health conditions) and reach out to them regularly.
- Shelters shall confine clients with acute respiratory illness symptoms (cough, problems breathing, fever) consistent with COVID-19 infection to individual rooms, if possible, and have them avoid common areas.
 - Follow CDC recommendations for how to prevent further spread in your facility. For example, follow Interim Guidance for US Institutions of Higher Education on working with state and local health officials to isolate ill persons and provide temporary housing as needed.
 - It is recommended to close off areas used by the ill persons and wait as long as practical before beginning cleaning and disinfection to minimize potential for exposure to respiratory droplets. Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area. If possible, wait up to 24 hours before beginning cleaning and disinfection.
 - In areas where ill persons are being housed in isolation, follow Interim Guidance for Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection for U.S. Households with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019. This includes focusing on cleaning and disinfecting common areas where staff/others providing services may come into contact with ill persons, but reducing cleaning and disinfection of bedrooms/bathrooms used by ill persons to as needed.
 - In areas where ill persons have visited or used, continue routine cleaning and disinfection as detailed in this guidance.
- If individual rooms for sick clients are not available, Shelters shall consider using a large, well-ventilated room.
- In areas where clients with acute respiratory illness symptoms are staying, keep beds at least 6 feet apart, use temporary barriers between beds (such as curtains), and request that all clients sleep head-to-toe.
- If possible, designate a separate bathroom for sick clients with COVID-19 symptoms.

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