Panelists/Resource Advisors

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Emily Mosites, PhD MPH- COVID-19 At-Risk Population Task Force, Senior Advisor on Health and Homelessness

Department of Housing and Urban Development

- Norm Suchar, Director, Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS)
- Katy Burke, CPD Director, Denver
- Brett Esders, Senior Program Specialist, SNAPS
- Marlisa Grogan, Senior Program Specialist, SNAPS
- Abby Miller, Senior Program Specialist, SNAPS
- Amy Palilonis, Senior Program Specialist, Office of HIV/AIDS Housing
- Aaron Weaver, CPD Senior Rep, Chicago

Panelists/Resource Advisors (continued)

Barbara DiPietro, PhD, Senior Director of Policy, National Health Care for the Homeless Council

Corette B. Taylor, Senior Advisor, Bureau of Primary Care, Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services

Department of Veterans Affairs

- Dina Hooshyar, MD, MPH, Director, National Center on Homelessness among Veterans (the Center), VHA Homeless Program Office
- Jillian Weber PhD, RN, CNL, Homeless-PACT National Program Manager, VHA Homeless Program Office

US Interagency Council on Homelessness

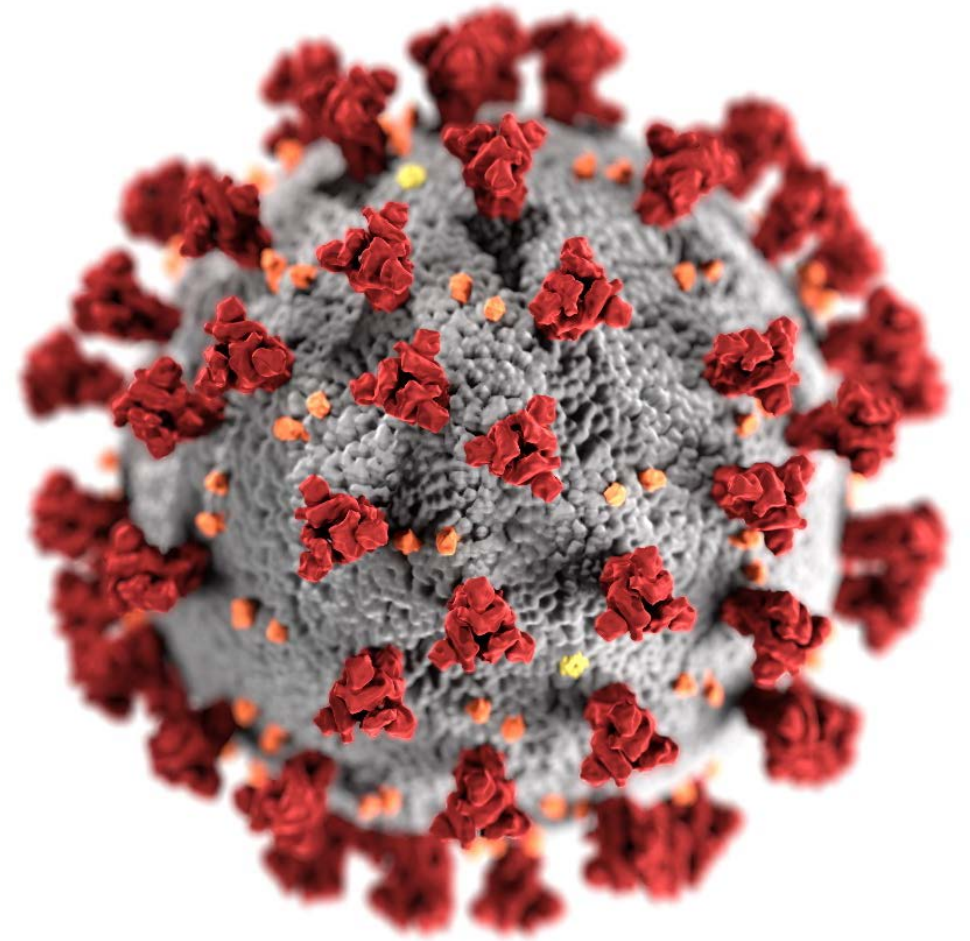- Katy Miller, Regional Coordinator (Seattle)

Agenda

- Updates
  - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
  - Department of Housing and Urban Development
  - Department of Veterans Affairs
- Q & As

Emily Mosites, PhD MPH

At Risk Population Task Force

COVID-19 Response

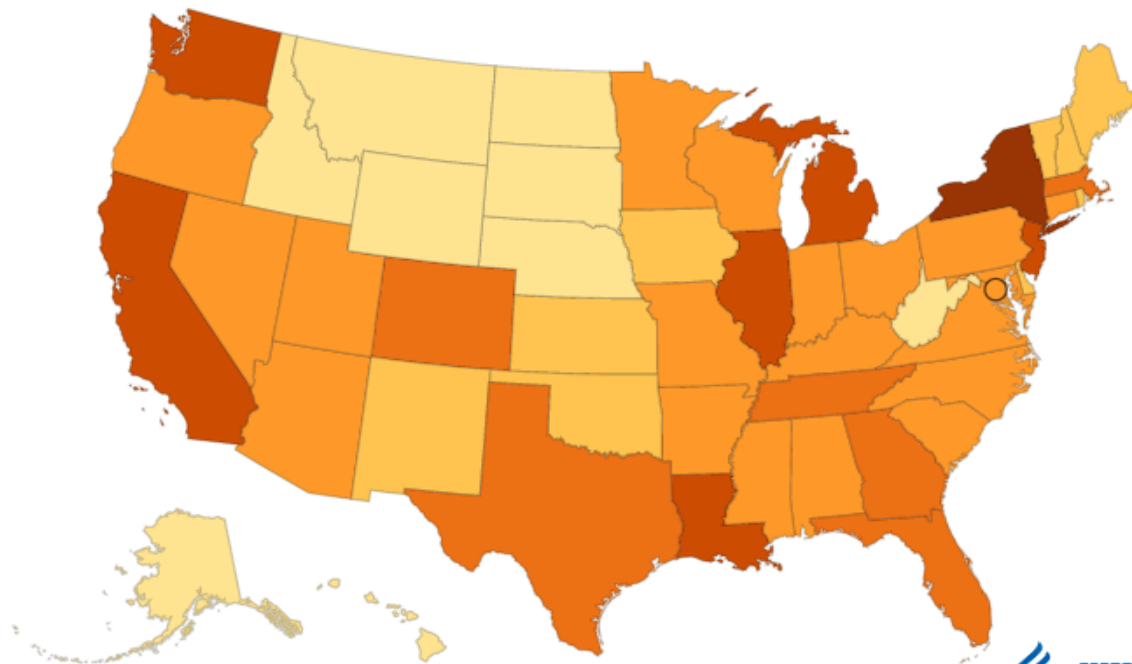**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

March 27, 2020

For more information: **www.cdc.gov/COVID19**

Over 64,440 cases reported to CDC as of 3/26/20

States Reporting Cases of COVID-19 to CDC*

Reported Cases

(last updated March 23, 2020)

- None
- 6 to 50
- 51 to 100
- 101 to 500
- 501 to 1000
- 1001 to 5000
- 5001 or more

Territories: AS GU MH FM MP PW PR VI

CDC guidance related to homelessness

Under "Schools, workplaces, and community locations"

Guidance for shelters and other service providers:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/plan-prepare-respond.html

Guidance for people experiencing <u>unsheltered</u> homelessness:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/unsheltered-homelessness.html
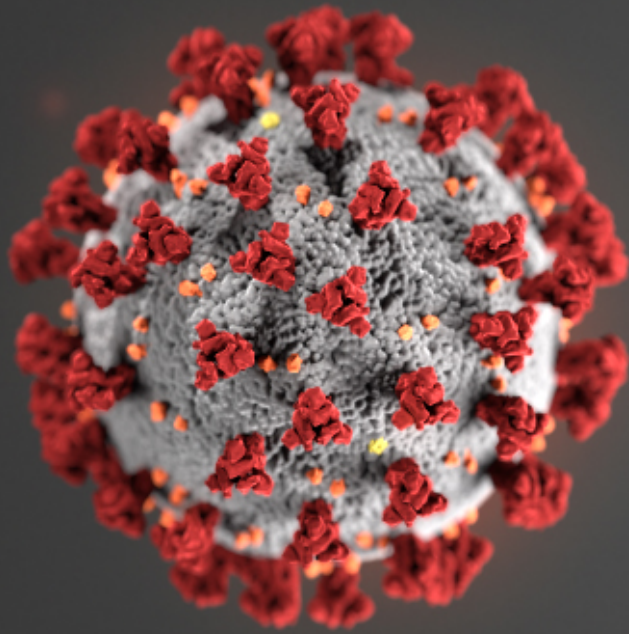
Unsheltered homelessness guidance key points

- Community-wide planning
- Continue housing linkages
- Communicate clearly with people sleeping outside
- Ensure somewhere that people who tested positive (who do not need to be hospitalized) can go to be isolated
- Avoid clearing encampments
  - Encourage people to increase space- 12ft x 12ft per individual
  - Ensure access to hygiene facilities

Upcoming CDC materials

- FAQs related to COVID-19 and homelessness
- Screening tool for shelters to use
- Flyers/posters for communicating with people experiencing homelessness
- Shelter guidance updates

For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232-6348   www.cdc.gov

HUD Updates

1. Immediate steps for Emergency Shelter Providers
2. New Resources on the HUD Exchange
   - Highlights from Shelter management document
   - Highlights from Encampment document
3. Update on Mega-Waiver
4. Update on Grant Amendment Process
   - ESG
   - CoC
5. Update on ESG *proposed* stimulus funding

Take Action! Immediate Steps to Take

- Establish a point of contact at your local public health department or contact HUD AAQ for help identifying contact

- Adjust shelter operations – see Shelter Management resource

At the <u>same</u> time…

- In partnership with public health & emergency management – identify alternate sites for people who test positive for COVID, those who are symptomatic

- If alternate sites are unavailable, plan for isolation/quarantine within your shelter

- Identify overflow shelter accommodations for those without symptoms (when shelter reaches capacity)

Guidance Document: Shelter Management During an Infectious Disease Outbreak

- Screening: Shelters should screen shelter residents for COVID-19 symptoms (i.e., cough, fever, shortness of breath) at intake and separate people with symptoms.

- Adjust operations: Implement extensive cleaning schedules, expand use of outdoor spaces, convert to 24 hour access

- Establish alternate care sites for healthcare providers to offer medical care and sheltering in non-traditional environments. Communities are using hotels/motels and large public spaces like community centers.

Shelter Management During an Infectious Disease Outbreak (cont'd)

- Closing a shelter during a public health outbreak could have serious health implications for the homeless people being served and cause increased disease spread in the community

- Continuums of Care should be actively reaching out to shelters (publicly and non-publicly funded) to document resource needs and to help problem solve

- If you are facing the tough decision to shut down your shelter, there are steps you can take…

Shelter Management During an Infectious Disease Outbreak (cont'd)

When facing the possibility of a shelter closure:

1) Reach out to your local public health partners and emergency management partners to determine if staffing and supply resources can be accessed locally

   Ensure these partners understand the community ramifications for closing these sites

2) Create a plan for alternative sheltering such as non-congregate solutions or establishing overflow spaces

3) Please reach out to HUD (field office or AAQ) – HUD technical assistance is available to support you!

Guidance Document: Protecting Health and Well-being of People in Encampments During an Infectious Disease Outbreak

The focus of this document is on protecting the health of people who are unsheltered during the COVID-19 pandemic

- Continue outreach and engagement to people who are unsheltered
- Don't clear encampments unless housing solutions have been identified
- Sanitation and social isolation measures can be followed even when sleeping outdoors: tents should be set up 12 ft apart
- Symptom screening for people who are unsheltered may also be conducted
- Provide education on transmittal of COVID-19 and offer hygiene products
- Service coordination with healthcare partners is important

Grant Amendments ESG & CoC Grants

- ESG: Look at any older funding and reprogram

- CoC: Think about project funding balances and reprogram

- Contact HUD CPD Field Office about amendments

  -SNAPS is working to expedite grant amendment processes

- Consult resources on the HUD Exchange for information:

  - **Using a Disaster Policy to Fund Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response with ESG**

  - **Using CoC Program Funds for Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response**

  - **Eligible ESG Costs for Infectious Disease Preparedness**

SNAPS Mega Waiver

Waivers provide relief from certain requirements upon a finding of good cause

HUD is working on a Mega Waiver that can help recipients in their COVID-19 response efforts

Prioritize Your COVID-19 Response

- SNAPS understands your #1 priority right now is responding to COVID-19

- Don't stress about performance metrics, subrecipient monitoring, governance;

- HUD will take this extraordinary time into strong consideration for future monitoring, and the competition.

- CoCs are encouraged to be as flexible as possible when thinking through their local competition metrics.

Resources for CoCs and Homeless Assistance Providers on the HUD Exchange

Infectious Disease Prevention & Response page on HUD Exchange

- Submit a question on the [HUD Exchange Ask-A-Question (AAQ) Portal](#)

Check back regularly for new posts!

Key Websites with Available Resources

HUD: https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/diseases/infectious-disease-prevention-response/

CDC: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/index.html

NHCHC: https://nhchc.org/clinical-practice/diseases-and-conditions/influenza/

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

VA: https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp

HRSA: https://bphc.hrsa.gov/emergency-response/coronavirus-frequently-asked-questions.html

CONTACTS

For additional information or assistance, contact:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
  www.cdc.gov/COVID19; 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636); TTY: 1-888-232-6348

- Department of Housing and Urban Development:
  HUD Exchange Ask-A-Question (AAQ) Portal

- Department of Veterans Affairs High Consequence Infection (HCI) Preparedness Program:
  vhahcigenerall@va.gov

Q & A