

Vermont Homeless Shelter COVID 19 Training & Technical Assistance



Goal: Emergency shelters are open and accepting new guests, June 1

We are here to help!

- Technical assistance for your specific agency
- Supplemental Funding
- “New capacity”
- Thermometers, Supplies
- Updated Guidance
- Admissions Screening Tool & Statewide Medical Provider
- Alternative Isolation/Recovery Housing & Transportation



Supplemental Funding

[COVID-19: Supplemental Housing Opportunity Grant Program Application](#)

[COVID-19 Housing Opportunity Grant Program Budget Tool](#)

Working on the plan for SFY21 grants based on available funds

Thermometers

- Working on allocation and will distribute next week, with guidance (contact George.Seiffert@Vermont.gov)
- Guidance on when and how to take temperature of guests <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/screening-clients-respiratory-infection-symptoms.html>
- VOSHA: To the extent feasible, prior to the commencement of each work shift, prescreening or survey is required to verify each employee has no symptoms of respiratory illness (fever, cough, and/or shortness of breath), including temperature checks.

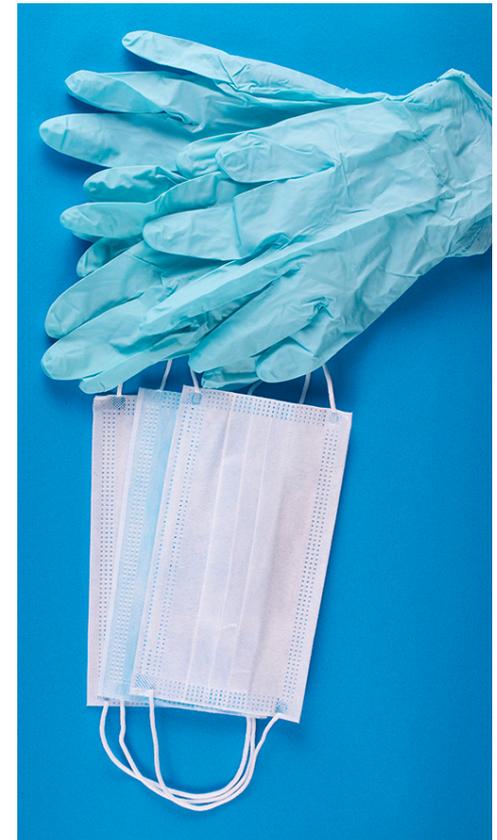
Personal Protective Equipment

Sector Specific Guidance:

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/SOV-Personal-Protective-Equipment-Guidance.pdf>

Guidelines on Requesting and Using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/HAN-COVID-19-PPEGuidelines.04.08.2020.final_.pdf



Vt Department of Health – Technical Assistance

We are here to support you in protecting your staff and clients throughout the evolving response to COVID-19

Our team is available to work with you proactively, such as through a one on one discussion of infection control strategies, or in response to an actual case associated with your facility

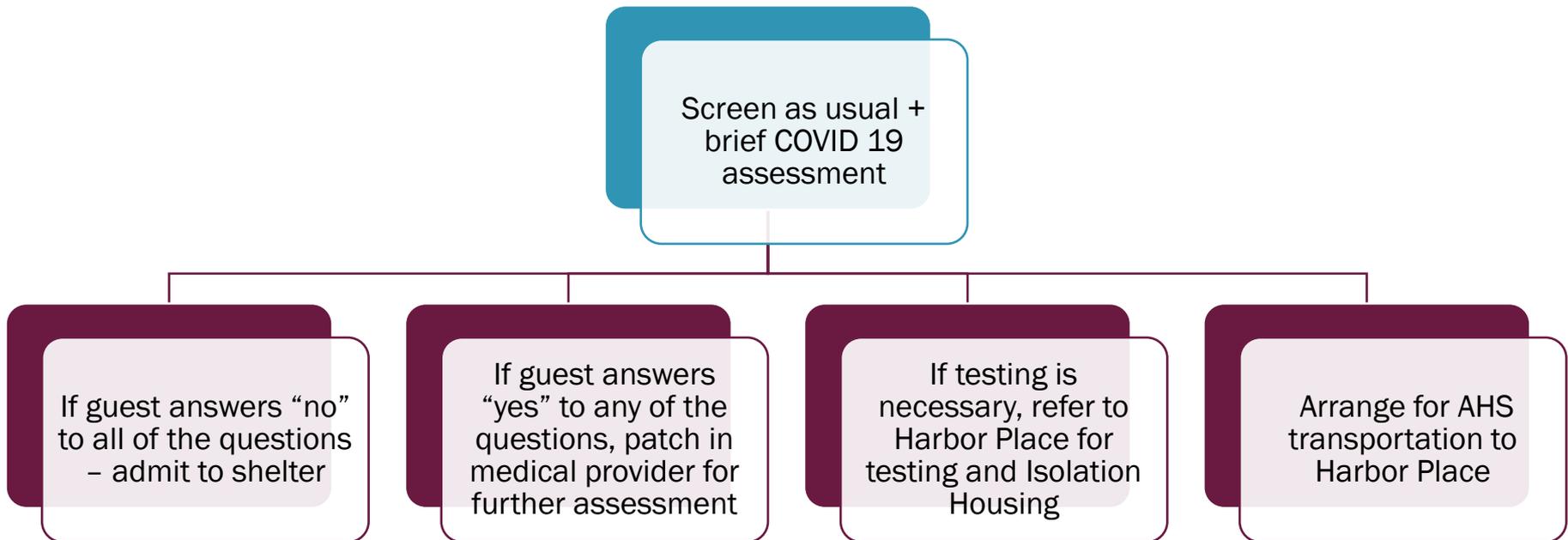
We follow the best practice guidelines set forth by the CDC, which have undergone revisions over time as we learn more about this virus

- These guidelines recommend several infection control measures with the overall goal being to maintain regular operations to the extent possible

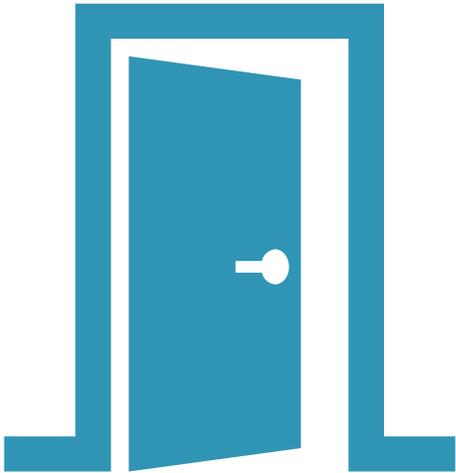
Testing

- Testing is one tool in our toolkit but the results of the test available to us now are really only a snapshot, so we have to consider their utility alongside all of the other infection control measures at our disposal
 - VDH recommends against requiring a negative test for entry to a service site
- HOP Supplemental funding prevents any prerequisites (including testing) prior to entry
- Working on a plan for voluntary testing of sites
- Use pop-up testing sites, transportation is available

Assessing New Shelter Guests for COVID 19



Alternative Isolation/Recovery Housing



Isolation/Recovery Housing for people who test positive for COVID-19 who do not need hospital-level medical attention, but who cannot return to their primary place or location of residence. I/R Housing is not a medical strategy, but a temporary housing strategy in which people receive access to telehealth and social services while they self-isolate and recover from COVID-19.

<https://humanservices.vermont.gov/help-and-resources/covid-19-information>

Transportation Resource

How and when to access transportation for persons who are suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases:

https://humanservices.vermont.gov/sites/ahsnew/files/Transportation.Iso_Rec_4.17.20.pdf





Creating an Inventory of COVID-19 Prevention Practices

Jen Pistole and Hannah Hauser

Preparing for COVID-19 starts with knowing the situation

Our team works to help shelters and other facilities create an inventory of prevention practices that they are already doing and identify any potential gaps

- We are piloting a CDC tool that is in development
- A version of this tool has been used already at all the long-term care facilities in the state

What are the goals of this project?

- Start conversations with shelters around infection control practices
- Gather information on current infection control practices and help address potential gaps or challenges
- Determine what state or structural supports are necessary to support your work
- Help develop a plan or protocol that can also be used for the prevention of other infectious diseases and outbreaks
- Provide CDC on the development of the tool so that it is a resource nation-wide

How is this project rolling out?

- Schedule meeting and provide some preliminary questions to maximize the use of time. If possible, we'll be working with people at the District Health Offices with whom you already have a relationship
- Use the tool to guide the conversation about preparing for COVID-19 in your community
 - The tool walks through and collects information on:
 - The physical shelter structure
 - Any practices currently in use for preventing and responding to COVID-19
 - Potential gaps or limitations that make it more challenging to prevent COVID-19
- Determine next steps and have follow up calls as necessary.

Questions & Answers

Testing

- What are the COVID-19 tests (including antibody tests) currently available in Vermont, what do they tell us?
- What are the limitations of testing?
- Should testing be required for all guests and staff?

Questions & Answers

Testing Continued

- Can test results be shared?
- What can shelters expect in terms of access to medical information of guests?
- What are the options for those guests who test positive? What is the process to access these options?

Questions & Answers

Shelter Practices

- What are the best practices as people start to come back to the shelter?
- How do we manage people coming and going from the shelter?

Staff Safety

- What protocols and recommendations are available to help keep staff safe in shelter settings?

Other Questions?



Important Resources

<https://labor.vermont.gov/vosha>

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

<https://dcf.vermont.gov/oeo/covid19>

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19>



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