

Protocols for Prevention and Care of Homeless People at Risk from COVID-19

1. Education
 - a. Develop educational materials and deploy outreach teams to educate homeless people on:
 - i. The risks and symptoms of COVID-19
 - ii. How COVID-19 is spread
 - iii. How to prevent infection, including effective methods of handwashing and other recommended hygiene practices
 - iv. Where to get help if COVID-19 symptoms develop
 - b. Train staff at shelters, supportive housing, and other direct service providers on the above information and require them to regularly inform their clients about proper hygiene and prevention practices.
2. Handwashing
 - a. In Skid Row and at all encampments throughout the County of Los Angeles, immediately deploy hand washing stations at a ratio of 1 station per 10 people.
 - b. Hand washing stations should not be concentrated in one location but rather spread throughout Skid Row and encampments to ensure adequate access
 - c. Open all City and County Parks and Recreation facility restrooms and extend their operating hours
3. Additional Resources
 - a. Deploy additional toilets at a ratio of 1 toilet per 20 people
 - b. Deploy hydration stations at a ratio of 1 station per 50 people
4. Care for those with COVID-19
 - a. Set up countywide temporary emergency shelters for those diagnosed with COVID-19 to provide comfort and care. This strategy should be implemented with the expectation of providing care for thousands of individuals. In Skid Row specifically, the County should establish a COVID-19 aid station to diagnose and process afflicted people.
5. Hotline
 - a. Set up a hotline with web and text capability so that people who are homeless can receive information about prevention and, if needed, get connected to treatment.
6. Messaging
 - a. Some people are already being unfairly accused for the spread of COVID-19. It is important that, in the City and County, COVID-19 messaging and educational materials not stigmatize homeless people.
7. Partnerships
 - a. The City and County should look to partner with disaster relief organizations, such as the Red Cross, to ensure that they are able to provide resources that meet the scale of need.
8. Moratorium on evictions
 - a. In order to limit further spread of the disease, the City and County should place a moratorium on evictions from rental housing. People who are infected may be subject to targeted eviction. In addition, people who are displaced from their homes are at increased risk of infection or infecting others. Therefore, during the peak of the pandemic, evictions should be prohibited.