

# Isolation/Quarantine Considerations

## **Terms:**

Isolation: Confirmed case of COVID-19

Quarantine: Possible, suspected, or “pending test results” cases

Social/Physical Distancing: Maintaining a 6-foot distance from other people in the community including staff and residents in shelter

## **Options:**

1. Segregation in shelter
2. Segregation off site:
  - a. Local site identified by Public Health Department COVID-19 Plan or by the County Emergency Manager Plan, for example, old school buildings, hospitals or hotels/motels repurposed to accommodate this need
  - b. Currently operating hotels/motels
  - c. State park cabins

## **Questions:**

1. Does your local United Way, Red Cross, Salvation Army, or other organization have disaster relief funds to assist with food and shelter?
2. What are your county’s health department recommendations for the isolation/quarantine of ill or symptomatic homeless persons including those homeless as a result of intimate partner violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking?
3. What is your county’s emergency manager plan for homeless persons including those homeless as a result of intimate partner violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking?

## **Procedural Decisions for Any Option:**

- Length of isolation/quarantine time: not less than 14 days
- Safety: shelters and offsite locations
- Confidentiality considerations and procedures regarding individuals who become ill
- Delivery of food and how food will be accessed: 3 meals a day plus snacks
- Maintaining services; integrating ongoing evaluation and amending/adapting approaches as needed
- Procedures for obtaining/providing medications
- Transportation: to shelter, relocation, for medical services, other
- Smoking, substance use/abuse
- Entertainment options: wi-fi, games, puzzles, phones
- Creating procedures for keeping in touch with individuals in isolation or quarantine: securing/confirming communication devices, frequency, timing

## **Intake:**

Inform incoming individuals of COVID-19 procedures and policies currently in place and the potential for those policies and/or procedures to change. Ask for the individual’s cooperation in helping to keep everyone safe and well. Amend communal living agreement to reflect the current situation.

## ***Segregation in Shelter to Mitigate Spread:***

### Prevention:

- Individuals should remain in the same bed, if possible, for the duration of their stay
- Beds should be 2” from the wall and bedding should not touch the floor
- Mattresses and pillows should be enclosed in impermeable barriers
- Provide individual quarters/rooms per family/survivor
- Offer, but do not force or require, that families stay in their rooms as much as possible during the day
- Consider staggering access to common areas such as kitchen/dining space
- Convert to using paper/disposable food service materials

### Quarantine:

- Reduce cleaning frequency in rooms dedicated to ill or symptomatic individuals to prevent spread
- Mattresses and pillows should be enclosed in impermeable barriers
- Have food delivered and consumed in quarantine room: make tea/toast, similar items available
- Provide *Personal Protective Gear* to staff delivering food and assisting individual(s) who are ill/symptomatic
- Check in on occupants at doorway or by phone, maintaining 6’ distance whenever possible
- Provide face mask to ill/symptomatic individuals
- If individual rooms are not available for ill/symptomatic individuals, consider using a large well-ventilated room: use temporary barriers such as sheets, curtains or shower curtains to separate individuals
- Place beds 6’ apart and situate them head to toe (end to end and/or across from each other)
- Keep families together, preference is to isolate in place

## ***Segregation Off Site – Hotels or Motels:***

1. Due to decreased travel many hotels/motels may be open to negotiating rates
2. Negotiating may include hotel services for linens and cleaning being reduced to once per week as individuals will be staying longer than a day or two
3. When selecting a hotel/motel consider type of exit doors – exterior is recommended when possible to limit spread, whereas interior has been preferred for survivor safety
4. Consider extended stay hotels with kitchens

## ***Question for Off Site***

1. Do you move individuals back to shelter at end of 14 days, or do you leave them in place for the duration of the stay in place order?