

Key Points & Take-Aways

Agenda: Dr. Wilnise Jasmin (CDPH), Maura McCauley (DFSS) & Nicole Bahena (All Chicago) convene homeless service providers for a weekly overview of the COVID-19 response in the Chicagoland area.

- **Nurse Visits:** Shelters should have received a visit from a sponsored nurse. If not, please contact DFSS.
 - Nurse visits provide an in-person review of CDPH and CDC shelter guidance. Nurses can assess infection control practices and assist with implementation, do telehealth screenings, and document concerns.

- **Testing Strategy**
 - CDPH has a rapid testing team that is coming to shelters to test both residents and staff. DFSS will follow up for drop-in center protocols.
 - The city has set up 3 large Quarantine/Isolating housing sites that can be accessed when completing an [intake form](#).
 - McCormick Place Alternative Care Facility
 - Exclusive criteria for getting admitted
 - Supported Isolation Facility
 - Congregate setting for those who require additional medical support or behavioral health needs.
 - Private General Isolation Rooms
 - For those positive individuals who lack an appropriate setting to self-isolate. Do not require additional medical or behavioral health support.

- **CDC has updated its [Guidance for Homeless Providers](#)**
 - The CDC urges communities to apply a “whole community approach.”
 - Added considerations for shelter layouts: the use of barriers, bed spacing, meal services, etc.
 - Added guidance on asymptomatic clients, cloth masks, and best practices for limited PPE.

- **City Coordination/Outreach Efforts**
 - **Temporary Shelters:** The City continues to open temporary shelters to allow for the decompression of the shelter system and to address emerging needs. It has currently opened 4 shelters providing 500 beds and plans to establish 700 beds in total.
 - **Addressing high-risk population:** Ongoing coordinated effort between shelters, CDPH, Lawndale Christian Health Centers, and DFSS to identify and relocate high-risk residents in a shelter for shielding in hotel rooms.
 - As of 4/24, DFSS is notifying shelters of IDHS emergency lodging funding.
 - Referral to shelters is still done by 311.
 - Outreach has partnered with CTA officials to provide face masks to continuous riders.

- All Chicago is dedicated to maximizing financial resources in response to COVID-19 by setting up the [Chicago COVID-19 Homeless System Agency Emergency Fund](#).
- Through the Action Agenda, All Chicago has passed the Expedited Housing Initiative prompting providers to:
 - Actively work and demonstrate their efforts to expedite housing placements
 - Providers should remove any barrier that impedes the rapid placement of participating in housing.
 - Currently, coordinated entry prioritization can be set aside so that the system remains nimble to the needs of the most vulnerable.
 - SPEC met and approved an accountability plan.
- HUD is allowing [grant amendments to the FY 2018 executed grant agreement](#) to meet immediate health needs. They will soon release guidance on FY 2019.
- **Provider Next Steps:** Apply for HUD waivers and implement emergency recordkeeping protocols.
- **Webinar Spotlight:** [HUD Office hours every Friday](#) at 1:30 PM CST.