

# Sacramento Homelessness COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM

## Weekly Progress Report

Brought to you in partnership by Sacramento County, City of Sacramento, Sacramento Steps Forward and the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency

June 26, 2020

Welcome to the eleventh weekly report highlighting progress and highlights of the COVID-19 Homeless Response Team’s work to implement the **Sacramento COVID-19 Homelessness Response Plan**. This report includes actions to date through Thursday, June 25th

### Isolation/Quarantine Units for Persons Experiencing Homelessness

*As an emergency response to COVID-19, medically supported isolation care centers, and preventative quarantine care centers have been temporarily funded to provide safe places for people experiencing homelessness who are COVID+, symptomatic or otherwise highly vulnerable.*

| Total Care Centers Open                                     | Total Since 4/8    |
|---|--------------------|
| # Preventative Quarantine Care Center (PQCC) Motels         | 4 motels           |
| # motel rooms   | 522 rooms          |
| # Medically Supported Isolation Care Center (MICC) Trailers | 18 trailers        |
| # Preventative Quarantine Care Center (PQCC) Trailers       | 41 trailers        |
| TOTAL MICC  | 18 trailers        |
| TOTAL PQCC  | 563 rooms/trailers |

| Served in Trailers and Motels | Week between 6/19 – 6/25 | Total since 4/8        |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| # Served in MICC Trailers     | 2 HH/2 individual        | 24 HH/24 individuals   |
| # Served in PQCC Trailers     | 0 HH/0 individuals       | 51 HH/54 individuals   |
| # Served in PQCC Motels       | 52 HH/53 individuals     | 696 HH/828 individuals |
| TOTAL Served*                 | 54 HH/55 individuals     | 771 HH/906 individuals |

*\*Total unduplicated served since 4/8/20 are: 720 HH/855 individuals.*

- A small number of Registered Nurses from the COVID-19 Medical Assistance and Supply Team (CMAST) will remain onsite to support the MICC-trailers and another number have been diverted to PQCC-motels and will provide onsite support to guests 7-days per week.
- Designated referral partners who are referring into the program include hospitals, Federally Qualified Health Clinics (FQHCs), outreach teams, correctional health, emergency shelters, law enforcement and other homeless service providers.

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## Ensuring Safety and Health for Persons Living Outdoors

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*This strategy is focused around providing coordinated support to people who are unsheltered to remain safely in place per CDC guidance to slow the spread of COVID-19.*

| Sanitation Stations  | Total since 4/8 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Handwashing Stations | 56              |
| Toilets              | 51              |
| Locations            | 38              |

*\*Placement of stations is dynamic, and equipment may be moved*

| Encampment Activities                    | Week between<br>6/19 - 6/25 | Total since 4/8 |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| # Meals served through Loaves and Fishes | 1,000                       | 11,600          |
| # Meals served by Sacramento Covered     | 0                           | 14,800          |
| # Meals served by volunteer groups*      | 5,969                       | 41,783          |

*\*This is the seventh week of tracking for meals served by volunteer groups, which includes organizations funded by Donate4Sacramento.*

| Encampments and Outreach                       | Total |
|--|-------|
| # Designated Outreach Navigators               | 37    |
| # Encampments Identified with 20+ individuals  | 43    |
| # Encampments Identified with < 20 individuals | 39    |
| TOTAL Encampments Identified                   | 82    |

- The Response Team pilot expansion of water bottle delivery to six sites with satellite delivery service completed its fourth week. 6-12 pallets of water are being distributed per week using this method. Additional methods for providing water continue to be assessed as well.

- \$114,000 in Donate4Sacramento mini-grants have been granted to 25 volunteer and service organizations to distribute meals, sanitation supplies, and survival gear, and to tend to health, transportation, and housing needs.
- A network of 28 volunteer groups, 20 groups funded by Donate4Sacramento, have been delivering food and water to encampments.
- With the new CA mandate for wearing masks in public, large quantities of masks are available to outreach navigators and volunteer groups for broad distribution to encampments and unsheltered people.
- Medical assistance has been provided to 76 encampment areas to date by volunteer medical students from UC Davis Medical School and California Northstate University, local health care providers and a Medical Integrated Health Unit, and by the WellSpace Health Street Nursing program.
- A private provider of trash removal services provides clean-up near sanitation station locations and in areas where food is distributed. This COVID related service augments clean-up occurring by the City and County.
- Servicing of sanitation stations is included with the deployment of the stations and will continue.

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## Keeping Existing Emergency Shelters Safe and Operational

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*This strategy ensures that existing shelters can safely remain open following CDC guidelines, moving vulnerable guests into COVID prevention care centers, and continuing to serve the general homeless populations.*

- With the new CA mandate for wearing masks in public, masks are available to emergency shelters for distribution to shelter clients.
- Elica Health's Health on Wheels mobile clinic continues to visit eight congregate shelters per week to provide primary care, emergency dental services and testing for COVID-19.
- The Nurse Advice Line for shelter staff to access real-time, health services support is as follows: Monday-Friday 9-5PM and Saturday-Sunday 10AM-4PM.
- Held weekly calls with private and publicly funded shelters.

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## COVID Testing

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*County Public Health with medical partners are completing robust COVID testing at shelters, encampments and isolation/quarantine care centers with the goal of being able to do widespread testing to ensure the health and safety of people experiencing homelessness.*

| Testing Locations                 | Testing Partner             | # Tests Administered | Positive Results | Negative Results | Pending Tests |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Shelters                          | Elica Health                | 183                  | 0                | 183              | 0             |
| Encampments                       | Joan Viteri Memorial Clinic | 97                   | 0                | 97               | 0             |
| Isolation/Quarantine Care Centers | DHS Medical Staff           | 262                  | 1                | 261              | 0             |
| Loaves and Fishes                 | DHS Medical Staff           | 248                  | 1                | 247              | 0             |
| <b>TOTAL TESTS</b>                |                             | <b>790</b>           | <b>2</b>         | <b>788</b>       | <b>0</b>      |

- There are no new COVID test results to report on this week. Testing updates will resume next week.
- Testing at Loaves and Fishes has shifted to motels this week. Testing kits will continue to be available to shelters.
- The Department of Health Services provides 200 tests per week to the Joan Viteri Memorial Clinic (JVMC) medical team to test unsheltered people experiencing homelessness. Testing will continue in encampments.
- Testing is a condition of referral into the isolation/quarantine care centers. DHS medical staff will continue to administer tests at those locations to guests.

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## Access to Housing

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The Response Team is accelerating work on strategies to maximize housing placements as persons exit Isolation/Quarantine units and is recommending several actions and strategies to transition up to 500 households into permanent housing stability over the next few months. The re-housing plan will be presented to Sacramento City Council, Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, and the City/County Continuum of Care over the next three weeks.

The proposed redirection changes the following in the current program:

- Reduces the original number of isolation/quarantine rooms from 850 to 600, but extends the duration of the sheltering program an additional two to three months to facilitate re-housing; and
- Brings new case management services and re-housing assistance to participants.

Re-housing at this scale is challenging and a massive undertaking but will take advantage of both the increased stability of participants now living indoors and the unprecedented local collaboration in the COVID-19 homelessness response. Additionally, Sacramento is one of eight communities in California receiving re-housing technical assistance through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Two strategies have been proposed to meet this goal:

**Strategy 1. Re-housing assistance into existing permanent housing:**

- Matching participants to existing re-housing assistance programs, and adjusting prioritization for some of those programs to support this effort (approximately 250 households);
- Expanding the County Flexible Housing Pool (FHP) re-housing program to facilitate approximately 225 housing placements; and
- Funding Room and Board placements, serving approximately 25 households.

**Strategy 2. Development of new permanent supportive housing through motel acquisition and conversion:**

This strategy would take advantage of the opportunity to purchase motels or other real estate for use as permanent supportive housing for persons experiencing homelessness, including persons currently residing in isolation/quarantine units. The motels would be purchased and operated by SHRA and/or an affordable housing developer for occupancy within five to six months. County Department of Health Services and contracted partners will provide stabilizing services, including mental health, alcohol and drug treatment, and physical health services.

In addition, housing efforts continue more broadly:

- Since April 8, 43 families have moved into permanent housing from the City’s Pathways and the County’s Flexible Supportive Housing Program with a Housing Choice Voucher.

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## Acknowledging Our Partners

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We wish to acknowledge all the public, private, and community partners whose efforts are helping keep people experiencing homelessness safe and slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. This week’s featured partner is the referral staff for the isolation/quarantine program.

As the COVID-19 Homelessness Response Team work got underway, a referral process also had to be quickly stood-up to establish how people experiencing homelessness would access and be referred into the isolation/quarantine program. This critical undertaking required significant coordination and training with referral partners, development of procedures, training staff as referral specialists, on-going communications, and the ability to staff a referral desk 7 days a week. The Homelessness Response Team would like to acknowledge and thank the SSF staff as well as Lutheran Social Services and Volunteers of America staff who developed and managed the referral desk and process. Thank you for your hard work and dedication!