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

April 29, 2022

Welcome to the report highlighting progress and highlights of the COVID-19 Homeless Response Team's response efforts as part of the **Sacramento COVID-19 Homelessness Response Plan**. This report includes <u>actions and information to date through late mid-April 2022</u>, with specific dates noted for each update provided.

Re-Housing

Our overall COVID-19 response remains focused on permanent solutions as we work toward our ambitious goal of rapidly moving most households from the COVID-19 shelters into permanent housing with support for ongoing stability or with interim housing and shelters as an alternative when that is not possible.

- As of April 18, 2022, 457 total individuals have exited the COVID-19 Project RoomKey shelters to stable housing since they opened in April 2020. An additional 515 have exited to temporary housing or shelter destinations such as emergency shelter or transitional housing programs.
- 207 individuals remain in the preventative care quarantine units of the sheltering program as of April 18, 2022. Shelter guests in the preventative care quarantine units continue to work with re-housing programs or onsite navigators to identify and progress along pathways to permanent housing.

The Sacramento COVID-19 care and sheltering program, previously scheduled to end May 31, 2022, has been extended through August. To allow for a smoother transition for both program participants and the system as a whole, the program is ramping down gradually. As of March 15, 2022, capacity was reduced by approximately 160 rooms, with a further reduction planned for June 20, 2022.

The Rehousing Team, working closely with the sheltering program on-site staff, has focused additional attention and resources on supporting shelter guests to accelerate and monitor progress toward housing. Ongoing case conferencing, frequent communications about transition plans and available resources, and other coordination efforts with system partners are and will remain in place to ensure as many participants as possible exit to housing, and that alternative temporary housing or shelter with continued rehousing support are available for those without permanent housing lined up at the time of their program exit.

Isolation/Quarantine

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 highly vulnerable.

- **Medically Supported Isolation.** Medically-supported isolation units remain a resource, and will continue to be part of the care centers through the currently scheduled duration. The Team will continue to work with Public Health to adjust capacity as needed.
- **Preventative Quarantine Care.** Per the current ramp down plan for the COVID-19 care and sheltering program, preventative care units will remain available through the end of August. To allow for a smoother transition for both program participants and the system as a whole, capacity is being reduced gradually, with a reduction in capacity by about half at the end of June.

Total Individuals and Households Served

The total number of rooms currently and the number of individuals/households served since April 8, 2020 **through April 18, 2022** are as follows:



*Total unduplicated served since 4/8/20: 2,055 individuals.

Length of Stay for Individuals Served in the Sheltering Program

The **average length of stay** for individuals currently in the sheltering program is 231 days, or nearly **8 months.**¹ Of those 207 individuals in the shelters as of April 18, 2022:

- 98% have been there for more than a month
- 66% have been there more than 3 months
- 58% have been there over 6 months
- 20% have been there over a year

The average length of stay for **all** individuals who have been served by the preventative care quarantine centers (including both people who have exited and people who remain) since they opened in April 2020 is 160 days, or just over 5 months. Among those 1,394 total individuals:

- 78% had/have a length of stay of a month or longer
- 54% had/have a length of stay longer than 3 months
- 32% had/have a length of stay longer than 6 months
- 12% had/have a length of stay of more than a year

Length of stay information for all individuals served by the preventative care quarantine centers as of April 18, 2022, broken down by people who have exited and people who remain in the shelters, is as follows:

		Individuals who:	
	Total	have	are in
Length of Stay	Served	exited	shelters
30 days or less	302	298	4
31 to 60 days (1-2 months)	195	149	46
61 to 90 days (2-3 months)	150	130	20
91 to 180 days (3-6 months)	295	257	38
181 to 365 days (6 months-1 year)	286	228	58
366 to 730 days (1-2 years)	164	125	39
731 to 1,095 days (2-3 years)	2	0	2
Total	1394	1187	207

¹ The length of stay information in this section covers only individuals served in the preventative care quarantine centers, since the medically supported isolation units are specifically for people who have tested positive for covid-19 and need a safe place to isolate until they are no longer contagious or experiencing symptoms.

Demographics

The following is a demographic breakdown of the 1,394 people served by the COVID-19 shelter system preventative quarantine units from April 8, 2020 through April 18, 2022.



COVID Vaccines and Testing

Vaccine Planning and Distribution

The County's Immunization Assistance Program (IAP) is coordinating vaccine distribution for persons experiencing homelessness and is utilizing Johnson & Johnson single-dose and Moderna 2-dose vaccines for vaccination efforts for persons experiencing homelessness.

As of April 22, 2022, a total of 2,681 vaccination doses have been administered to people experiencing homelessness by the Public Health Department Vaccination Partnership:

- 1708 Johnson & Johnson vaccine doses
- 973 Moderna vaccine doses

Weekly COVID-19 vaccination events are held at Loaves & Fishes (Tuesdays, 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.) and Harm Reduction Services (Thursdays, 3:30 - 6:00 p.m.) for initial and booster Johnson & Johnson and Moderna doses, as well as flu shots. Shelters or encampments interested in pop-up vaccination events can contact Gabrielle Ortiz at ortizg@saccounty.net.

Testing

Community and health partners continue to provide resources around accessing COVID-19 testing and offering on-site testing when the need is significant for shelters and other partners. Shelters or encampments can contact Phu Tran at TranPhu@saccounty.net should they have questions on their next steps.

Sacramento County has been monitoring and responding to the changes within the COVID-19 pandemic as it relates to testing. Sacramento County Public Health no longer directly manages any community testing but maintains a list of testing resources available in the community <u>here</u>. The County continues to monitor community need and will engage proactively with community based organizations and health system partners to make adjustments if needed.

Ensuring Safety and Health for Persons Living Outdoors

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.

Since April 2020, the County has funded sanitation stations (toilet and sinks) at several dozen locations across the county to serve homeless encampments as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 40 stations, while dynamic in location, have been serving our neighbors experiencing homelessness since then.