

# 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

**July 10, 2020**

Welcome to the thirteenth 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, July 9th.

### 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

*\* Five trailers are currently offline. The number of available trailers may change week to week.*

Served in Trailers and Motels	Week between 7/2 – 7/9	Total since 4/8
# Served in MICC Trailers	6 HH/6 individual	33 HH/37 individuals
# Served in PQCC Trailers	4 HH/4 individuals	58 HH/61 individuals
# Served in PQCC Motels	38 HH/41 individuals	756 HH/897 individuals
TOTAL Served*	28 HH/38 individuals	847 HH/995 individuals

*\*Total unduplicated served since 4/8/20 are: 785 HH/933 individuals.*

- A small number of Registered Nurses from the COVID-19 Medical Assistance and Supply Team (CMAST) 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.



## 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.*

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 7/2 - 7/9	Total since 4/8
# Meals served through Loaves and Fishes	1,200	13,200
# Meals served by Sacramento Covered	n/a	14,800
# Meals served by volunteer groups*	n/a	16,251

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 sixth week. 6 pallets of water were distributed this 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. Mini-grants were expended by June 30, 2020. Supplies will continue to be available for volunteer organizations to access and distribute.
- Medical assistance has been provided to 90 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	238	0	238	0
Encampments	Joan Viteri Memorial Clinic	97	0	97	0
Isolation/Quarantine Care Centers	DHS Medical Staff	384	2	382	0
Loaves and Fishes	DHS Medical Staff	248	1	247	0
<b>TOTAL TESTS</b>		<b>967</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>0</b>

- There are no new COVID test results to report on this week. Testing updates will resume next week.
- 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 has been presented to the City/County Continuum of Care Board and will be presented to Sacramento City Council and the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors over the next few 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, 48 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 partners are the outreach navigators.



Sacramento's network of outreach navigators brings services and a measure of relief through survival supplies to people experiencing unsheltered homelessness year-round. They stepped up to do even more when the COVID-19 pandemic began. A multi-agency outreach network of over 30 team members from Sacramento Covered, Sacramento Self Help Housing, and Sacramento Steps Forward began conducting assessments for the

Isolation/Quarantine program in April, serving as the primary pathway for people who are unsheltered to enter these motels and trailers. All three agencies in this network quickly ramped up meal delivery to encampments in March and April in support of the CDC guidance to help these folks remain in place to prevent the spread of the virus. Thank you to this multi-agency outreach team, a key partner in the Response Team's COVID-19 encampment strategy.