COVID-19 Town Hall
Reaching Unsheltered People
April 3, 2020
Welcome!

Grounded in human rights and social justice, the NHCHC mission is to build an equitable, high-quality health care system through training, research, and advocacy in the movement to end homelessness.
COVID-19 resources on street homelessness

National guidance
- CDC Guidance
- Street Medicine Institute
- HUD Guidance for health in encampments and infection control
- Homebase Guide

Local guidance:
- Seattle
- New York
- Oakland
- Oregon

Send us your community’s guidance!: mdurham@nhchc.org
More at nhchc.org/coronavirus
We Must Pay Attention to Structural Racism

Antiracism resources in COVID response

• Oregon health authority
• Living Cities blog
• CSH blog
• Racial Equity Tools

It can be tempting to table diversity and inclusion in a crisis. But it’s actually the time to center it.
Panelists

Jim Withers, MD
Founder, Street Medicine Institute
Operation Safety Net
Pittsburgh, PA

Jim O’Connell, MD
President, Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program
Boston, MA
Street Medicine COVID19 Response
OSN Procedure for Street Rounds to Homeless Camps During Active COVID-19 Pandemic
Updated 3/18/2020

Moving forward, any contact with camps should be well planned, stream-lined, well stocke
national. The intent is to prevent transmission of infection to our clients, to protect
and to preserve valuable PPE supplies while still providing essential services to
our very vulnerable population.

Personnel will lead the street round team and there should be no more than 2 ro
per week unless otherwise determined necessary by medical. Rounds will not
of 4 individuals; 2 medical staff, 1 outreach worker 1 OSN volunteer. Student
volunteers will no longer be allowed to come on rounds.

Team approaches a camp, they should announce their presence at the camp a
Franklin Miller, staying at least 3 feet away. Only given permission to en
STREET MEDICINE PRACTICE during the COVID19 PANDEMIC

March 2020

We are erring on the side of communicating quickly, rather than perfectly. Please check back for updates and corrections as our knowledge of best practices evolves.

The Street Medicine Institute Board of Directors
Pittsburgh Mercy’s Operation Safety Net COVID19 field testing

people experiencing unsheltered homelessness are at high risk of dying from COVID19.

COVID19, people experiencing unsheltered homelessness (rough sleepers) were about
ten times more likely to die than the general population and three times more likely to die than people
living in shelters. While people sleeping in shelters are at increased risk due to the impossibility of physi-
cal distancing, most people experiencing homelessness have chronic, severe medical conditions
(asthma, pulmonary disease, diabetes, HIV, and other immune-impairing illnesses, malnutrition,
and/or mental health and substance use disorders) that place them at high risk of death from COVID19. The unshelter-
ed are unable to self-isolate as easily and are forced to engage in life sustaining services that
involves interacting with others.

to current COVID19 testing is challenging, we believe it is essential to provide the
necessary resources to identify and test those who are at high risk.
Town Hall #3: April 10 at 1pm ET/10am PT

• Register at: //nhchc.org/coronavirus-town-halls/

• Upcoming topics:
  • The role of medical respite/recuperative care in COVID response
  • Adopting telehealth for HCH contexts