COVID-19 “COFFEE CHAT” SERIES

Testing for COVID-19 in Homeless Shelters & Encampments:
Discussing CDC’s New Health Department Guidance &
NHCHC’s Newest Issue Brief

July 10, 2020
GOALS FOR TODAY’S DISCUSSION

• Learn about CDC’s new testing guidance for health departments
• Provide an overview of the Council’s new issue brief on universal testing events
• Talk with leaders in Baltimore and San Francisco about their testing experiences
• Facilitate a community discussion about testing
• Address as many of your questions/comments as possible!

Enter your comments and questions here for group discussion.
TODAY’S DISCUSSION PANEL

Kristine Schmit, MD, MPH, Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Public Health Service; Medical Officer, Surveillance, Epidemiology, Outbreak Investigations Branch, Division of TB Elimination, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta, GA

Elizabeth Imbert, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor, Division of HIV, ID and Global Medicine, UCSF, Med/Epi Lead, Shelter/Encampment Team, Outbreak Management Branch, Departmental Operations Center, San Francisco Department of Public Health, San Francisco, CA

Kevin Lindamood, President & CEO, Health Care for the Homeless, Baltimore, MD
COVID-19 and Homelessness
Guidance Updates

Homelessness Unit
Disproportionately Affected Populations Team
COVID-19 Response

cdc.gov/coronavirus
CDC guidance related to homelessness
On CDC COVID-19 site under “Helping Communities Plan and Respond”

Shelters and other homeless service providers
→ Whole community approach, communication, facility layout, facility procedures, supplies, staff considerations

Providers serving people experiencing unsheltered homelessness
→ Whole community approach, communication, encampments, client considerations, outreach staff considerations
CDC guidance related to homelessness
On CDC COVID-19 site under “Helping Communities Plan and Respond”

Reopening: checklist of considerations for homeless service providers

Testing strategies for health departments
Testing strategies: Who to test

- People **with signs or symptoms** consistent with COVID-19
- Asymptomatic people with **recent known or suspected exposure** to SARS-CoV-2 to control transmission
- Asymptomatic people without known or suspected exposure to SARS-CoV-2 for **early identification in special settings**
Testing strategies for homeless shelters and encampments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community transmission*</th>
<th>Testing strategy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>Baseline: Standard healthcare-based testing and testing for anyone who has been exposed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimal-Moderate</td>
<td>Baseline + Consider increased testing for people who are symptomatic or asymptomatic to improve early detection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moderate-Substantial</td>
<td>Baseline + Consider facility-wide testing at least once. Follow-up testing weekly until no new cases identified for at least 14 days.</td>
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*specific levels to be set by state and local health departments
Other CDC materials on homelessness


- FAQs
- Communications materials for people experiencing homelessness
- Symptom screening tool
- Youth-focused information
For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
NEW ISSUE BRIEF: STRATEGIES FOR PROACTIVE UNIVERSAL TESTING

- Addresses public health authorities, emergency response systems, HCH programs, and other community providers
- Sites federal testing guidance (HHS, CDC, HRSA)
- Re-iterates importance of proactive, universal testing of this population
- Includes operational strategies, common challenges, and recommendations

Check it out in the resource box below!
# NEW ISSUE BRIEF:
## STRATEGIES FOR PROACTIVE UNIVERSAL TESTING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operational Strategies</th>
<th>Challenges</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Getting support</td>
<td>• Gaining support</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Partners</td>
<td>• Limited familiarity with homeless populations</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Frequency of testing</td>
<td>• Gaining client trust</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Contact tracing/antibody testing</td>
<td>• Limited tests/capacity</td>
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<td>• Shelter characteristics</td>
<td>• Lack of confidence in test results</td>
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<td>• Unsheltered/encampments</td>
<td>• Ensuring sufficient services</td>
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<td>• Funding</td>
<td>• Leadership changes</td>
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<td>• Services provided</td>
<td>• Locating vulnerable people</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Next steps</td>
<td>• Sharing data</td>
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</table>
NEW ISSUE BRIEF:
STRATEGIES FOR PROACTIVE UNIVERSAL TESTING

12 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Prioritize population
- Maximize legal authority
- Educate stakeholders
- Set up provider/public information
- Formalize partnerships
- Set up transportation
- Conduct COVID-19 education
- Provide services at testing
- Ensure safety of clients & staff
- Pursue permanent solutions
- Actively reverse disparities
- Share data
Q&A & DISCUSSION

If you haven’t already, please send us questions or comments using the chat box at the bottom of your screen.
TODAY’S DISCUSSION PANEL

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INFORMING SCIENCE:
COVID-19 TESTING AMONG HOMELESS POPULATIONS

What: CDC-Council project collecting data on testing events

Goals: better understand the impact of COVID-19 on this vulnerable group, and to inform public health actions going forward.

Scope: Types of tests, client/staff test results, symptoms, demographics

Please fill out the survey (or forward to someone who can!)

Check it out in the resource box below!
OUR RESOURCES

• Dedicated, newly re-designed, COVID-19 webpage:
  → www.nhchc.org/coronavirus
  → HUD, CDC, & HRSA materials, local policies & guidance, consumer-specific materials

• **Request**: Please send us your local guidance and protocols!
  → Send to Michael Durham, TA Manager, at mdurham@nhchc.org

• **Weekly editions of Solidarity (Wednesdays)**