

COVID-19 Checklist

Homeless Shelters

Top Things You Can Do to Protect Against COVID-19

All Minnesotans are being asked to practice social distancing whenever possible. However, this is difficult or impossible for certain groups and in congregate living situations, such as homeless shelters. Shelters can take the following actions to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

- › Retrain staff, residents, and volunteers on handwashing and cough etiquette. Ensure staff and volunteers wash hands before/after all interactions with residents. Make sure supplies are well stocked, like soap and paper towels.
- › Encourage ill staff to stay home.
- › If any staff or volunteers are considered high risk for COVID-19, they should stay home or be isolated from sick clients staying in the shelter.
- › Regularly monitor residents for symptoms of acute respiratory illness (fever, cough, or shortness of breath). Separate sick residents from the rest of the community. Do not keep residents with respiratory symptoms in the same area unless the cause of the illness is confirmed to be the same.
- › Clients, staff, and volunteers should immediately inform management if they have respiratory symptoms, and **call** their health care provider. Actively monitor reports of respiratory illness or reports of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the facility and inform your local health department.
- › Provide residents who are ill or have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 with reputable information on what to do when they are sick. Develop plans for individuals who may enter isolation/quarantine to refill prescriptions or access daily medications (e.g., methadone).
- › Increase the frequency of cleaning surfaces and other high-touch areas using EPA- approved cleaning agents.
- › Avoid sharing household items among those who are sick. Do not have those who are sick share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, bedding, or other items. After using these items, you should wash them thoroughly with soap and water.

Visit the CDC webpage on [Resources for Homeless Shelters](#) for more guidelines and cleaning recommendations.

For up to date, accurate information, visit the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) [Prepare and Prevent: COVID-19](#) webpage, or the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) [Coronavirus webpage](#).



Wash your hands.



Stay home when sick.



Cover your cough.



Keep 6 feet apart.



Stay informed.