How to Proceed After the Emergent Period to Maintain Safety and Advance Services

Wednesday, May 27, 2020
1:00 PM EST
## Today’s Agenda

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<td><strong>Linda Gibbs</strong>, Principal Bloomberg Associates</td>
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<td>Estimating Continued Capacity</td>
<td><strong>Dennis Culhane</strong>, Professor of Social Policy, School of Social Policy and Practice, The University of Pennsylvania</td>
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<td>Testing and Triaging</td>
<td><strong>Marc Eichenbaum</strong>, Special Assistant to the Mayor for Homeless Initiatives, City of Houston</td>
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<td>Q&amp;A, Discussion, and Feedback</td>
<td><strong>Linda Gibbs</strong>, Principal Bloomberg Associates</td>
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Current U.S. Situation

COVID-19 Dashboard by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University.
Web Series Overview

1. How Homeless Services have been Impacted in the Emergent COVID-19 Period

2. How to Proceed after the Emergent Period to Maintain Safety and Advance Services

Stages of Response

Emergent
- **Period**: Feb./March to now?
- **Actions**:
  - Change of practices (outreach, sheltering)
  - Emergency sheltering (congregate, hotels)
  - Staffing impact
  - Client Needs

Intermediate
- **Period**:
  - Decline or Flat Incidence
  - Surge of needs during 2nd, 3rd wave
  - Prolonged period of uncertainty
- **Actions**:
  - Prolong expanded shelter capacity
  - Testing
  - Prevention
  - Engaging and Case Planning with Clients

Longer
- **Period**:
  - Vaccine—at least 18m
  - Treatment, partially effective for severe illness, <18m
- **Actions**:
  - Using the COVID-19 crisis as an opportunity for permanency
  - Setting priorities
  - Long term changes in service delivery
  - Measure Impact
Planning for Permanency after Emergency Housing among Comorbid, High Risk Individuals

Dennis Culhane
The University of Pennsylvania

Professor of Social Policy, School of Social Policy and Practice, Director, Human Services Department
Critical Context

- Accelerated Aging of Adult Homeless Population
- High Rates of Unsheltered Homelessness on West Coast
- Large Population with COVID-Comorbid Conditions – “High Risk”
- Estimated 75% of CoCs Using Hotels/Motels, with Time-Limits.
Planning for Transition to Permanency

Adapt the Rapid Rehousing Model as Bridge to Permanent Housing*

- Housing Stabilization Case Management (90 day average)
  - Benefits enrollment (SSI, SNAP, Medicaid)
  - Housing Options Counseling
  - Housing Search and Landlord/Family Negotiation
  - Relocation and Move-in Assistance
  - Transition to Community-based Support Services

- Temporary Financial Assistance
  - Relocation Grant (first/last/security)
  - Flexible Emergency Cash Assistance
  - Temporary Rental Assistance as Bridge to Subsidy

* Explore Potential for Medicaid Funding
Housing and Income Supports for High Risk

- Aggressive SSI Outreach (like SOAR) to aging and comorbid persons

- SSI Plus: Shared Living “Housing Allowance” to Supplement SSI ($500/month)

- “Pandemic Voucher”: Housing Choice Vouchers or Equivalent (enrollment limited to duration of crisis, and receipt until exit or death)

- PSH: new (hotel acquisition and conversion), and turnover

- Assisted Living, as Indicated
Homelessness and COVID-19: Converging Crises and the Emerging Response Framework

March 2020

Dennis Culhane, Dan Treglia, Ken Steif
University of Pennsylvania

Randall Kuhn
UCLA

Thomas Byrne
Boston University
Overview

This dashboard is intended to provide information to inform planning and response efforts to address the COVID-19 pandemic among persons experiencing homelessness in the United States. The dashboard is intended to provide the following information at both the national and Continuum of Care (CoC) level:

1. Estimated size of the single adult homeless population, to provide a baseline understanding of scope of potential COVID-19 related impact and needs
2. Potential impact of COVID-19 on the single homeless population, including number of infections, number of hospitalizations, number of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) admissions and number of fatalities
3. Capacity needed to provide emergency accommodation to the single adult homeless population

The dashboard is based on this report of the impact of COVID-19 on the homeless population and was created by the report’s authors: Dennis P. Cullhane, Dan Treglia, & Ken Steif from the University of Pennsylvania, Tom Byrne from the Boston University School of Social Work and Randall Kuhn from UCLA.

The dashboard will be updated regularly as new data become available and to add new information. Update announcements will be made here on Twitter.

Code for dashboard is available here

How to use the dashboard

The tabs at the top of the page provide the following information:

1. Estimated size of the single adult homeless population, used as the baseline to inform estimates of the impact of COVID-19 and capacity needed to mitigate this impact
Brief Q&A
Houston’s Homeless Response System

Marc Eichenbaum
City of Houston

Special Assistant to the Mayor for Homeless Initiatives
Overview—Houston’s Homeless Population
Overview – Houston’s Homeless Response System
COVID-19 Response: Homeless

Three Tier Response

Prevention
- Handwashing stations
- Outreach
- Distribution of Hygiene Resources
- Sanitation / Liter Abatement
- Auxiliary Shelter

Emergency Response
- Homeless Testing Program

Recovery
- Quarantine/Isolation Facility
- COVID-19 Homeless Housing Initiative
Quarantine/Isolation Facility

H-MIRC
Homeless – Medical Isolation Recovery Center

- City & County Joint Initiative
- 186 Rooms
- Option K for 3,000 Additional Rooms
- Funding Sources & Split
- Operations
- Patient/Clients
COVID-19 Response: Homeless

Three Tier Response

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Emergency Response
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Recovery
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- COVID-19 Homeless Housing Initiative
Houston Homeless Testing Program

Program Characteristics

- **Led by:** City of Houston
- **Administered by:** 3rd Party Partner
- **Assistance & System Communication by:** CoC Lead Agency
- **Funding:** FQHC COVID + City FEMA
- **Specimen Testing:** City Lab
- **Dedicated Transportation by:** Yellow Cab / METRO
# Phased Implementation

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<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Symptom Type</th>
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| Phase 1 | Homeless Testing – Main Site  
  a) Shelters  
  b) Outreach Teams & Service Providers  
  c) Homeless Individuals  
  d) ETHAN (ER Diversion) | symptomatic     |
| Phase 2 | Unsheltered Testing – Ancillary Testing Site at largest day shelter    | asymptomatic   |
| Phase 3 | Shelter Testing – Mobile Testing Unit  
  a) Shelters with positive cases  
  b) All remaining shelters | asymptomatic   |
Unsheltered – Testing Hotline Distribution

COVID-19 INFORMATION for people living on the street

WHAT IS COVID-19?
It is a virus that is spread person-to-person by coughing or sneezing and getting exposed to droplets that have the virus in them.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?
They feel like the flu or a really bad cold:
Fever, cough, pain when breathing deeply, fatigue, shortness of breath.

HOW DO I AVOID GETTING SICK?
• Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; a good timer is to sing the "Happy Birthday" song twice.
• Hand-washing stations have been set up throughout the downtown area.
• If you can’t wash your hands, use hand sanitizer.
• Don’t get too close—try to stay in well-ventilated areas and keep 6 feet away from others.
• Avoid people who are coughing.
• If you are not sick, don’t wear a mask. It will not prevent you from getting sick.

TENTS
• Try not to share or hang out in tents with anyone else unless you share space with your partner.
• If you camp with a group, please keep 6 feet of space between tents on all sides.
• Try not to hang out in groups larger than 10 people. If you have to be around large groups of people, keep an arm’s distance away from others.

ESSENTIAL SERVICES
• Some of the programs you usually go to may not be open or they may be limited.
• If you have internet access on your phone, visit https://www.homelesshouston.org/covid19 to get more information on programs and services.

IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE CONTRACTED COVID-19, CALL 713-286-6047 TO BE SCREENED BY HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS.
Testing Process / Workflow
Houston Homeless Testing Program

Testing & Results

- Individuals Tested
- Positive Cases
Long-term Testing Plan

- Dedicated Team
- Expanded, Proactive Testing at Shelters
- Sustained Testing
- Specimen Testing
- Funding
Q&A Discussion
Closing & Feedback
Thank you for attending.

Please take a moment and complete a brief feedback poll.