Universal COVID-19 Testing in Shelters: Learning from the Experience of Hartford’s The Open Hearth

Wednesday, May 27, 2020
House Keeping

- Attendees are muted
- Please type any questions you have into the Questions Box
- We are recording this webinar and will send out the link to everyone who registered at a later date.
Speakers

Marilyn Rossetti
Executive Director
The Open Hearth

Liany Arroyo
Director of Health and Human Services
City of Hartford

Linda Casey, MPH
Director of HMIS and Strategic Analysis
Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness
Connecticut Homeless System’s Evolving Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Pre-COVID (Pre-March 2020)
Steady reductions in homelessness through diversion and re-housing efforts.
Preparing for major push to end family and youth homelessness.

Basic Infectious Disease Controls (March – April 2020)
3/7 - 1st COVID-19 case arrives in CT.
Homeless services providers shift focus on outbreak prevention through cleaning, social distancing, relocation of high-risk persons out of congregate shelter.

Shelter Decompression (April – June 2020)
Mid-/late-March realization that most shelters could not comply with CDC guidelines for bed spacing and social distancing.
State issues order and FEMA approval to move 60% of congregate shelter residents into state-contracted hotels.

Containment & Census Reduction (June 2020 - ?)
Shelter decompression ending July 2.
New strategy involving systematic COVID-19 testing and cohorting (isolation), along with reduced shelter census through scaled-up re-housing and diversion/prevention efforts.
Overview of COVID-19 Testing within Homeless Shelters

COVID-19 testing entails partnerships and information sharing between the shelter provider, the Coordinated Access Network, a testing provider, a laboratory, local health departments/districts, the Department of Public Health, and CCEH.

Shelter providers paired with designated testing provider (i.e., a hospital or community health center).

Shelter provider (“ordering provider”) obtains ROIs from clients, shares client roster with testing provider.

Testing provider collects specimens and transports to a laboratory.

Lab results returned within a few days to the testing provider, shelter provider and LHD.

LHD facilitates isolation of those tested positive, monitoring/retesting, and return from isolation.
Key Considerations

• **Clarify process, roles, and timelines** – When will residents be tested? Who will share rosters of clients? Who will collect specimens? How will results be shared? How frequently will re-testing occur?

• **Have a plan for results** – How will results be communicated to residents? Where will people who are tested positive be isolated? Will staff and residents need to be quarantined? Will residents who are isolated be returned back to shelter?

• **Preparing staff and residents** – How will staff and residents be prepared? What will you do to mitigate concerns and reduce anxiety?

• **Communicate and enter data** – Who will receive the results? Who will coordinate with your local health director regarding isolation/quarantine? How will data be recorded in HMIS?
COVID-19 Testing at the Open Hearth

Marilyn Rossetti
Executive Director
Using COVID-19 Test Results to Cohort Homeless Shelter Residents

Liany Arroyo
Director of Health and Human Services
Capturing COVID-19 Data in HMIS

Linda Casey, MPH
Director of HMIS and Strategic Analysis
COVID-19 and Tracking Data

Why collect this data?

Immediate Benefits:
• Allow providers to quickly enter and view test results
• Shows alerts for positive or pending results
• Tracks symptoms and onset to manage need for isolation protocol
• Provides ability to manage isolation and quarantine locations
• Collaborate with local health districts for test results data

Long-Term Benefits:
• Enable analysis of any disparities
• Centralize and facilitate client COVID-19 management
• Provide overview of how COVID-19 affected our community
Data

Overview

- COVID-19 data can be collected for clients with open enrollments in any program (ES, PSH, PATH, VI-SPDAT, etc.)
- The current clients in hotels have been imported into HMIS
- New clients or any changes to current clients entered on Smartsheets will be imported into HMIS at regular intervals until the hoteling is over
- Use HMIS to enter all COVID symptom and test data
Adding COVID-19 Data
Adding COVID-19 Test Results

Covid-19 Testing

- Tested for COVID: Yes
- Testing Location: 
- Date of Test: 
- Test Result Status: 
- Test Result Date: 
**Alerts – Quick Reference**

**Red** indicates positive test

**Yellow** indicates pending test

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>ClientID</th>
<th>Program Enrollments</th>
<th>Enrollment Start</th>
<th>Housing Location</th>
<th>Isolate/Quarantine</th>
<th>Testing Result Date</th>
<th>Latest Testing Status</th>
<th>COVID PROGRAM Exit Enrollment</th>
<th>Client Info</th>
<th>COVID-19 Info</th>
<th>Housing</th>
<th>Case Notes</th>
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<td>5/15/2020</td>
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For more information:

CCEH’s Coronavirus Resource Page:  [www.cceh.org/covid19](http://www.cceh.org/covid19)

State of Connecticut Coronavirus Disease 19 webpage:  [https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus](https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus)

Questions?

Type in questions below

Additional Questions and Training Needs?

Contact training@cceh.org