

COVID Screening Protocol for Alberta Front-line Shelter Staff

March 19, 2020

General Measures for all Shelter Facilities:

- Institute symptom screening and PPE stations at main entry points to facility
 - PPE should include gloves, face masks with visors (N95 masks are NOT required), hand sanitizer, and gowns if available
- Implement system of registration of all clients entering the facility, including names and contact information if available, in order to facilitate contact-tracing in the event of an exposure
- Discourage movement of clients between shelter sites
- Increased hand-washing, cleaning/disinfection of common spaces, frequency of room and linen cleaning, and hygiene around food preparation and consumption
- Daily check-ins and active case-finding among regular clientele to ensure early identification of clients who develop symptoms while staying at the facility
- Daily tracking of # of clients staying each night, # with clinical symptoms, and # referred for COVID testing/isolation site
- For more detailed recommendations re: food-handling and hygiene practices, please refer to the document ["Guidance for Providers of Services to Albertans Experiencing \(or at-risk of\) Homelessness: COVID-19"](#) (distributed on March 17, 2020 and available online).

Patient Presentation or Entry area

Sign on doors alerting patients with cold/flu symptoms, travel history, or COVID contacts to **STOP and MASK**

Entry Screening

Question: Do you have a dry cough?

OR

Question: Do you feel ill or feverish?

Test: Does this client have a temperature above 37.6 degrees outdoors or 38 degrees indoors ?

Screening Result

ONLY ONE YES

NEGATIVE screening: encourage hand hygiene, usual practice for shelter admission

BOTH YES:

POSITIVE screening: immediately mask patient and keep 1m distance from other clients/staff. Move to another room or space if possible.

Record Name and Phone Number of client if possible. Conduct brief relevant history regarding SOB and vitals

Clinical Assessment

SICK PATIENTS: (unstable vitals, appear unwell, significant comorbidities)
Notify EMS of high suspicion

WELL PATIENTS (stable vitals, look well, minimal comorbidities)

Complete Intake/Triage form and arrange for Transport to isolation space. If time permits, perform swab assessment.

Initiate Testing Pathway

All patients who screen positive or are awaiting swab results, arrange transport to Isolation Site. Swab testing can be done at isolation site.

Patient Disposition

ADMIT TO PREMISES

Initiate transfer to hospital (COVID testing can be deferred to hospital)

ISOLATION SITE