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).
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?  
  **ONLY ONE YES**  
  **NEGATIVE screening:** encourage hand hygiene, usual practice for shelter admission.

- **Question:** Do you feel ill or feverish?  
  **BOTH YES:**  
  **POSITIVE screening:** immediately mask patient and keep 1m distance from other clients/staff. Move to another room or space if possible.

**Screening Result**

- **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)

**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**