

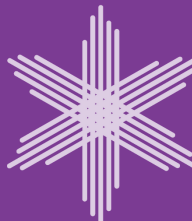
POINT SOURCE YOUTH PRESENTS:

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE YOUTH HOMELESSNESS CRISIS: WHAT PROVIDERS NEED TO KNOW

Speakers:

- Emily Mosites, Ph.D., M.P.H., COVID-19 At Risk Task Force, Senior Advisor on Health and Homelessness, Lieutenant Commander, USPHS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Jeff Schlegelmilch, M.P.H., M.B.A. Deputy Director for the National Center for Disaster Preparedness
- Charles G. Prober, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, Microbiology & Immunology, Stanford Medicine, Senior Associate Vice Provost for Health Education, Stanford University

This toolkit was developed as part of a webinar which featured leading experts in the public health space alongside providers and advocates across the country to examine actionable next steps and implications for the national youth homelessness community during the COVID-19 pandemic.



KEY TAKEAWAY

The distance between need and capacity is greater now more than ever, but it's also the gap we need to continue to work towards closing through a coalition-based response with other service providers, health providers, CoCs, public health departments, state and federal governments, and legislators.



Q + A

How do we support our clients if we're practicing social distancing?

We're calling it social distancing but really what we're talking about is physical distancing. Actually, these social connections and the social cohesion are more important than ever. The reality is the services that were needed before the pandemic are not only needed today but are needed even more.

What should we tell youth who aren't concerned about the virus impacting them at this time?

Moral of the story is just because you are young does not mean you are not at risk.

Should we be ordering extra masks and protective gear?

In the US we are experiencing a dangerous deficit in masks and protective gear for the people who need it most: health professionals. For folks who aren't working in the medical space, diligent hygiene techniques are recommended. Be sure to thoroughly wash your hands, use alcohol-based sanitizers and stay 6' apart from other folks (at minimum).

CDC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROVIDERS



- Ensure bathrooms and other sinks are consistently stocked with soap and drying materials for hand-washing.
- In general sleeping areas (for those who are not experiencing respiratory symptoms), ensure that beds/mats are at least 3 feet apart.
- At check-in, provide any client with respiratory symptoms (cough, fever) with a surgical mask.
- Confine clients with mild respiratory symptoms consistent with COVID-19 infection to individual rooms, if possible, and have them avoid common areas.
- Decisions about whether clients with mild illness due to suspected or confirmed COVID-19 should remain in the shelter or be directed to alternative housing sites should be made in coordination with local health authorities.

THIS OUTBREAK FEELS SO LARGE BECAUSE IT'S ACROSS THE ENTIRE WORLD AND THE ENTIRE COUNTRY, BUT IT'S ACTUALLY YOUR LOCAL AREA THAT'S MOST IMPORTANT. KEEP TABS ON WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUR LOCAL & STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENTS TO INFORM WHAT YOU ARE DOING LOCALLY.
-DR. EMILY MOSITES

Resources:

- [CDC - Resources to Support People Experiencing Homelessness](#)
- [CDC - Screening Clients for Respiratory Infection Symptoms at Entry to Homeless Shelters](#)
- [HUD - COVID-19 Response and Homelessness](#)
- [HUD Exchange - COVID-19 Homelessness](#)
- [National Healthcare for the Homeless Council](#)
- [What to Know About HIV and COVID-19](#)
- [Cleaning and Disinfection for Community Facilities](#)
- [Interim guidance for homeless service providers to plan and respond to coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)



ACTIONS TO TAKE NOW

1. Use coalition-based interventions to tackle COVID-19 in your community. We cannot do this without one another.
2. Utilize up-to-date resources specifically for handling COVID-19 while providing services to youth experiencing homelessness.
3. Use your voice for those who are the most marginalized. Contact your legislators and community leaders about the specific needs of youth experiencing homelessness.