

Office of the Director

401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1300
Seattle, WA 98104-1818

206-296-4600 Fax 206-296-0166
TTY Relay: 711

www.kingcounty.gov/health

LOCAL HEALTH OFFICER GUIDANCE NON-CONGREGATE SHELTERING

As authorized via RCW 70.05.070(2)-(3) and WAC 246-100-035, to reduce the spread of COVID-19, on March 31, 2020, via Local Health Officer Order, I authorized King County, and local cities and towns, to establish non-congregate sheltering facilities. This guidance is to be used to direct eligibility for residency in a non-congregate facility.

TARGET POPULATION

1. Isolation: Persons who have a low acuity illness (i.e., do not require hospitalization) consistent with COVID-19, and either:
 - a. A positive COVID-19 test result, or
 - b. COVID-19 like illness
2. Quarantine: Persons who are asymptomatic (no illness) and have:
 - a. A known exposure to a person with confirmed COVID-19.
3. De-intensification: Persons who are homeless, do not fit into the first two categories, and are considered high risk, which means the person is 65 years old or older, or the person is any age and has at least one of the following health conditions:¹
 - a. Chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma,
 - b. Serious heart condition(s),
 - c. Immune system compromise,
 - d. Severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher),
 - e. Diabetes,
 - f. Chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis, or
 - g. Liver disease.
 - h. Hemoglobin disorders
4. First responders and medical professionals who may come into contact with persons suspected of being infected or confirmed to be infected with COVID-19.

ADMISSION PROCESS

COVID-related non-congregate sheltering facilities are temporary structures created with the goal of mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in our community and preserving hospital system capacity. These facilities will provide food, shelter, and basic health care in a compassionate setting. Basic health care includes: monitoring COVID-19 illness to determine if further medical evaluation is warranted and assisting with transfer to a higher level of care when indicated; providing basic management of existing chronic conditions, including access to medications for chronic conditions to the extent possible; and, supporting with basic behavioral health services.

King County's non-congregate sheltering facilities are operated by the Department of Community and

¹ See: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>

Human Services (DCHS), in partnership with Public Health – Seattle & King County (PHSKC) and other King County agencies. These King County agencies will work with healthcare facilities, first responders, homeless service providers, community organizations, and other partners to facilitate referral to the appropriate non-congregate sheltering facility. The intake process at each location will include data collection to confirm that the person being referred for residency is eligible as a member of one of the target populations listed above.

Signed and issued this 1st day of June 2020, in Seattle, Washington, by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Duchin', written over a horizontal line.

Jeffrey S. Duchin, M.D.
Local Health Officer
Public Health – Seattle & King County