

Tips for Sheltering in Place for COVID-19

Regardless of outbreak status, facilities should be prepared to isolate residents onsite who have, or are suspected of having, COVID-19. When a resident has symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19, either at intake or during their stay, they need to be isolated from others within the shelter to the extent possible for the duration of their isolation period.

Strategies will depend on unique factors to each setting. Any measures to maximize physical distancing provide benefit **along with improved ventilation, masking, vaccines, testing, cleaning, and hygiene measures.**

If a separate room and bathroom are available:

- Move the guest to an isolation space separated from other shelter guests.
- Designate a bathroom for the positive resident(s).
- Use masks (as feasible regarding behavioral/physical needs) onsite except when eating or sleeping.
- If air purifiers are available, consider locating one air purifier close to COVID-positive resident(s).
- Designate a single person to deliver food to the isolating person.

If a separate room and bathroom are not available:

- Use a dedicated corner of the room in the common sleeping area and place as much physical distance between that area and other residents as possible.
- Position beds head to toe if isolating in common sleeping areas.
- Designate/stagger bathroom times and keep bathroom fans running.
- Use masks (as feasible regarding behavioral/physical needs) onsite except when eating or sleeping.
- Consider staggering mealtimes to minimize risk of transmission.
- If air purifiers are available, consider locating one air purifier close to COVID-positive resident(s).
- Designate a single person to deliver food to the isolating person.

For questions regarding COVID-19 isolation guidance, call Public Health - Seattle & King County at 206-296-4774.

For any emergencies, follow your organization's internal policies and protocols.