



# Department of Public Health

**MAYOR**  
Oscar Leeser

## CITY OF EL PASO HEALTH AUTHORITY GUIDANCE FOR HOMELESS SERVICE PROVIDERS

### CITY COUNCIL

**March 10, 2021**  
**EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**

**District 1**  
Peter Svarzbein

This Guidance is effective immediately and shall be in effect until terminated or modified by a subsequent Order or Guidance.

**District 2**  
Alexsandra Annello

In light of the presence of COVID-19 in our community, the Local Health Authority is issuing the following guidance:

**District 3**  
Cassandra Hernandez

**District 4**  
Joe Molinar

1. Shelters should implement everyday preventive actions and provide instructions to staff and volunteers about actions to prevent the spread of the disease (for example, wash hands; use hand sanitizer; avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth; avoid close contact with others).

**District 5**  
Isabel Salcido

**District 6**  
Claudia L. Rodriguez

2. Shelters should meet regularly with staff and volunteers to discuss plans to help clients implement personal preventive measures (such as washing hands; using hand sanitizer; avoiding touching eyes, nose, and mouth; avoiding close contact with others).

**District 7**  
Henry Rivera

**District 8**  
Cissy Lizarraga

3. Shelters should communicate with the Department of Public Health if there is a reasonable concern that clients in your facility might have COVID-19.

**CITY MANAGER**  
Tommy Gonzalez

4. Shelters should keep clients and guests informed about Department of Public Health recommendations to prevent disease spread and about changes to services that might be related to the outbreak. Messaging may include:

- a. Posting signs at entrances and in strategic places.
- b. Providing instruction on hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, and

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cough etiquette.

c. Providing educational materials about COVID-19 for non-English speakers, as needed.

## CITY COUNCIL

### District 1

Peter Svarzbein

5. Shelters should monitor clients who could be at high risk for complications from COVID-19 (those who are older or have underlying health conditions) and reach out to them regularly.

### District 2

Alexandra Annello

6. Shelters should confine clients with acute respiratory illness symptoms (cough, problems breathing, fever) consistent with COVID-19 infection to individual rooms, if possible, and have them avoid common areas.

### District 3

Cassandra Hernandez

### District 4

Joe Molinar

7. Shelters should follow CDC recommendations for how to prevent further spread in your facility. For example, follow Interim Guidance for US Institutions of Higher Education on working with state and local health officials to isolate ill persons and provide temporary housing as needed.

### District 5

Isabel Salcido

### District 6

Claudia L. Rodriguez

8. Shelters should close off areas used by the ill persons and wait as long as practical before beginning cleaning and disinfection to minimize potential for exposure to respiratory droplets. Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area. If possible, wait up to 24 hours before beginning cleaning and disinfection. If waiting 24 hours is not possible, wait as long as possible. In addition, provided are the following recommendations:

### District 7

Henry Rivera

### District 8

Cissy Lizarraga

## CITY MANAGER

Tommy Gonzalez

a. Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick, such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, shared electronic equipment like tablets, touch screens, keyboards, remote controls, and ATMs.

b. Vacuum the space if needed. Use vacuum equipped with high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter, if available.

i) Consider temporarily turning off room fans and the central HVAC system that services the room or space, so that particles that escape from vacuuming will not circulate through the facility.

ii) Do not vacuum a room or space that has people in it. Wait until the room or space is empty to vacuum.

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DELIVERING EXCEPTIONAL SERVICES



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## CITY COUNCIL

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c. Once area has been appropriately disinfected, it can be opened for use.

i) Workers without close contact with the person who is sick can return to work immediately after disinfection.

d. If more than 7 days since the person who is sick visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary.

i) Continue routine cleaning and disinfection. This includes everyday practices that businesses and communities normally use to maintain a healthy environment.

9. Shelters should, in areas where ill persons are being housed in isolation, follow Interim Guidance for Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection for U.S. Households with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019. This includes focusing on cleaning and disinfecting common areas where staff/others providing services may come into contact with ill persons, but reducing cleaning and disinfection of bedrooms/bathrooms used by ill persons to as needed.

10. Shelters should, in areas where ill persons have visited or used, continue routine cleaning and disinfection as detailed in this guidance.

11. If individual rooms for sick clients are not available, Shelters should consider using a large, well-ventilated room.

12. Shelters should keep beds at least 6 feet apart and request that all clients sleep head-to-toe.

13. If possible, Shelters should designate a separate bathroom for sick clients with COVID-19 symptoms.

14. Shelters should require staff, volunteers, and clients to wear masks or face coverings.

15. Shelters should require staff, volunteers, and clients to keep at least 6 feet apart.

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