

Health Advisory

COVID-19: Referrals for Isolation and Quarantine (I & Q)

April 13, 2020

SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, continues to spread in our region. Over the past week, there have been increasing reports of cases occurring in staff and residents of congregate residential settings, such as homeless shelters, behavioral health facilities, and residential drug and alcohol treatment centers. To date, 18 residential facilities (excluding long term care and nursing homes) have been identified with outbreaks of COVID-19.

To help address the isolation and quarantine needs of persons living homeless in Philadelphia and to prevent continued transmission of SARS-CoV-2 infection within residential facilities, the City of Philadelphia has developed a quarantine and isolation residence for people who cannot safely be returned to their usual housing. This is ***not*** a healthcare facility; thus, it is not a referral site to obtain medical evaluations or provide hospitalization. The Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) will be responsible for reviewing all referrals to assure that they meet intake criteria and that individuals can be safely housed at the facility. Length of stay will be determined by the COVID-19 diagnosis and need for quarantine or isolation. The maximum stay is 14 days, although if SARS-CoV-2 test results come back negative, or if a person who tested positive is cleared to leave, the time might be shorter. To be eligible for referral, a client/patient must be:

- Tested for SARS-CoV-2 and the results are pending or positive OR require up to 14-day quarantine for observation
- Stable for discharge from hospital, without need of oxygen or home health support
- Homeless or living in a high-risk residence
- Unable to safely isolate or quarantine
- Provided with fourteen (14) days of all required medications
- Willing to comply with isolation/quarantine rules

Individuals to be considered for placement must be referred by a healthcare provider or residential facility provider. Coordination of housing will occur from 8:30 am - 5:00 pm, seven (7) days per week. Providers are asked to only reach out during these hours. During the referral process, please be prepared to provide detailed case information and contact information to enable PDPH to expedite placement.

Healthcare and residential facility providers may make a referral through the PDPH COVID provider line at **215-685-6741** between 8:30 am and 5:00 pm. Alternatively, you may submit a referral online at <https://redcap.phila.gov/surveys/?s=9JP9W98HXR>.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Outbreaks of SARS-CoV-2 are occurring in homeless shelters and residential behavioral health facilities.
- Some SARS-CoV-2 infected or exposed individuals may be eligible for housing at the City-sponsored I & Q facility.
- The process for initiating transfer to the I & Q facility is described within this advisory.