Update on Homeless Response
Vermont COVID 19 Homeless Response Plan

With the understanding that there is a high likelihood that people with COVID-19 with mild or no symptoms will enter the shelter system, AHS created Vermont Homeless Response Plan with the single objective to slow the spread and maintain care and response capacity.
Strategy 1: Preserve & Strengthen Emergency Shelter Capacity

Progress:

Established local emergency homeless response teams

Issued guidance to shelters about screening, cleaning and sanitizing, social distancing, etc.

Assessed shelter capacity to operate 24/7 and ability to provide adequate isolation/quarantine for people who may exhibit symptoms on-site

Instructed shelters to decrease census and pause acceptance of new residents; newly homeless households referred via ESD/211 to motel voucher program
Strategy 2: Decrease chance of infection for High Risk (60+, underlying medical conditions)

Progress:

GA vouchers and ESD staff helped shelters move Extreme Vulnerable out of congregate settings into motels

Communities working to quarantine-in-place in shelters and motels by continuing to provide support services including meals, medication, check-ins and transportation
Strategy 3: Increase Capacity for Isolation & Quarantine and Recovery Centers for those without a home

Progress:

Community response teams mobilized and helped identify potential isolation and recovery housing sites across the state.

AHS has moved forward to secure new capacity and operationalize alternative isolation/quarantine and recovery housing.

- Alternate Care Sites are needed to meet a variety of needs related to the COVID 19 response. These sites are being developed as part of a larger plan and may be used to meet multiple needs overtime.
- Conversations and coordination is in place with local towns, municipalities and local EMS. Siting and planning are both underway.
Target Populations: Suspected and Confirmed COVID-19

**Harbor Place** has been designated as AHS Isolation/Quarantine Housing. Harbor Place is ACTIVE and is designed to serve people who:

- Are suspected of being COVID + or have had contact with someone who is COVID+ AND
- cannot stay in current environment due to risk of contagion AND
- have been referred by a health care provider AND
- need *limited monitoring and can care for themselves* (e.g., do not need assistance with activities of daily living)

**Recovery Housing** is designed to serve people who:

- Have a confirmed case of COVID 19 with mild or no symptoms AND
- Need to recover in safe, isolated place but do not need hospital care
  
  **OR**
  
- have been discharged from hospital and do not have a place to go AND
- need *limited monitoring and can care for themselves* (e.g., do not need assistance with activities of daily living)
Target Populations: Suspected and Confirmed COVID-19

Alternative Recovery Housing Sites (In Process):
- AHS Wellness & Recovery Center at Goddard College – operated by AHS
- Burlington Area – Operated by Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity
- White River Junction Area – Operated by Upper Valley Haven
- Rutland Area - TBD
Isolation & Quarantine and Recovery Housing is part of a larger strategy at AHS to develop Alternative Care Sites to temporarily meet a variety of needs related to the COVID 19 pandemic.
Progress on Key Needs Identified

Key Needs Originally Identified

- Behavioral/integrated health support  See below
- MAT/detox support (protocol developed for alternate sites)
- Medical support (each community team should have a connection to health care partner)
- Transportation (protocol developed)
- PPE online request form made available

- Supplies, Staffing, Wraparound Support  RFP coming out next week for emergency shelter and service providers to enhance staffing, outreach, etc.
Current Goals - Strategies

- Operational Framework for Recovery Sites
- Burlington and Central Vermont Recovery Sites Open and Ready to Receive
- Additional Infection Prevention Control guidance and support for shelters and other sites
- Clear communication and education on protocols for screening, testing, transportation and referral to alternative housing site (if needed)
- Meal/Food Infrastructure Support – Planning Underway at SEOC
- Motel, Shelters and Unsheltered Activities are reinforced (staffing, hc connection, security, meals)
Emergency Shelter/Services Supplemental Funding Requests

Simple RFP released early next week (by 4/8)
Rolling admission and awards made
Source of funds yet unknown, likely HUD Emergency Solutions Grant

Anticipated allowable activities – Supplemental, NOT to replace other funds –
Must be related to COVID 19
  ▪ New services onsite at motels or outreach to motels/encampments
  ▪ Additional staffing for mental health support or security
  ▪ Staffing and related costs for expanded hours (24/7), expanded sites
  ▪ Additional pay needed to retain staff or recruit new staff
  ▪ Non-staffing costs related to expanded sites, etc.
  ▪ Supplies, materials, etc.
Important Links

• [homeless Service Provider Guidance During a Novel Corona Virus Outbreak](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-home-care.html)

Interim Guidance for Implementing Home Care of People Not Requiring Hospitalization for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Recommended precautions are below and can also be found at