04/17/2020

To Our Partners in Public Health:

Due to the recent concerns regarding the COVID-19 spread in our community, Jefferson County Unified Command in conjunction with the Jefferson County Department of Health (JCDH) are opening up a temporary shelter to help address COVID-19 among persons experiencing homelessness in Jefferson County. The shelter will serve to provide a quick testing service to persons experiencing homelessness who are showing symptoms and will only provide temporary shelter for those individuals who meet the attached guidance. If a person’s COVID-19 test is negative, they will be cleared to return to their shelter. If a person’s COVID-19 test is positive, the person will be placed into a quarantine area.

The JCDH would also encourage any individual working in this population to go to https://olc.alabamafirecollege.org/course/view.php?id=4055 for COVID-19 related training.

The site will be active April 17, 2020, and referrals should be made after shelters or agencies have reviewed the attached guidelines. All referrals should call 205-930-1364 or after hours 205-933-9110.

Sincerely,

Wesley G. Willeford, M.D.
JCDH Medical Director of Disease Control
Guidance to Shelters for Persons who Should be Considered a Person Under Clinical Investigation for COVID-19

April 17, 2020

1. COVID-19 Information
   a. The incubation period after exposure to COVID-19 is thought to extend to 14 days, with a median time of 4-5 days from exposure to symptom onset.
   b. Symptoms of COVID-19:
      i. Fever
      ii. Cough with or without phlegm production
      iii. Fatigue
      iv. Decreased appetite
      v. Shortness of breath
      vi. Muscle aches

2. Screening Strategy
   a. Persons should be screened for symptoms at the time of intake and at least once daily;
   b. Temperature should be taken once daily.

3. Persons who should be moved to Person Under Clinical Investigation Area and Offered Testing:
   a. A person who is exhibiting a fever of $\geq 100.4^\circ$ F and new onset of cough
   b. A person who is exhibiting a new onset cough with any of the symptoms listed above
   c. A person who is named as a direct contact to a known positive case of COVID-19

4. Persons who should not be moved to Person Under Clinical Investigation Area
   a. Persons with the following severe symptoms should be transferred to an Emergency Room for immediate medical care:
      i. Extremely difficult breathing (not being able to speak without gasping for air)
      ii. Bluish lips or face
      iii. Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
      iv. Severe persistent dizziness or lightheadedness
      v. New confusion, or inability to arouse
      vi. New seizure or seizures that won’t stop
      vii. Any other degree of clinical instability that might jeopardize a person’s life

Sincerely,

Wesley G. Willeford, M.D.
JCDH Medical Director of Disease Control