

COVID-19 Update Meeting 4/14/20

- **Situation Report**

- The current situation is fluid. PfH is not receiving updates from area hospitals at the moment and as a result there is no overall or comprehensive situation report.

- **Testing**

- The CDC and Mercy Care began testing at the large congregate shelters last week. Between The Evolution Center and Gateway on Pryor Street, there were 10 positive cases- 5 at each site. All positive individuals have been moved to isolation units. Testing at Atlanta Mission sites began yesterday and is continuing today. Mercy Care will be testing at the Salvation Army and City of Refuge later this week.
- The local DPH has implemented testing at the smaller shelters throughout the city. Testing began at Covenant House on Saturday and City Baptist Rescue Mission on Sunday. DPH will be continuing testing at smaller shelter sites throughout this week.
- There will be a make-up test day at Gateway on Friday. This will also be a walk-up testing day and will be open for referrals. The testing hours will be communicated later this week.
- There are plans to continue the testing next week and to focus on unsheltered individuals. There is discussion to figure out the details as to where to host the testing.

- **Isolation**

- The first isolation hotel is up and running with 16 guests. PfH is expecting to add capacity this week and next as shelter testing continues and there is an increase in referrals from hospitals.
- Isolation beds are accessed through the Nurse Line of DPH. Hospitals and shelter testing sites are educated about the referrals process.

- **Outreach and Encampments**

- Phase 2 of outreach, symptom screening and testing, has been on hold until a safe, secure way of testing people has been established. Mercy Care and its partners have been looking to expand dedicated sites next week. There will be more information sent out on this later this week.

- **Food and Supplies**

- Starting last Friday, PfH and its partners were able to begin distributing 500 meals to unsheltered individuals in the city. 500 meals were distributed Saturday and Sunday as well. The number was increased to 700 yesterday and will be increased to 900 today, with the goal being to provide unsheltered individuals with one meal a day.
- Wednesday there will be meals available for shelters that are experiencing a shortage.

- Thank you to everyone that filled out the supply needs survey. Through that information PfH was able to create a coordination ask. Information on this ask is forthcoming.
- Please send any pictures of staff wearing the donated masks. PfH would like to send photos to the organization that donated them as a thank you. Please send these photos to Jen Williams (jwilliams@partnersforhome.org).
- **Information Sharing, Questions, and Comments**
 - PfH is still hiring for the isolation units as additional hotels may be added online.
 - Is there medical support at the hotel?
 - The Emergency Response Manager is a paramedic. Additional medical support will be added through Mercy Care this week. There will be dedicated nurse and a nurse practitioner or doctor. The CDC has also provided training with the team and will be providing additional training this week.
 - Will those that are being tested by the local DPH have access to the isolation units?
 - Yes
 - Is there a discharge plan from the isolation units for unsheltered individuals?
 - Through the Mayor's executive order for non-congregate shelter, there will be a hotel for healthy individuals experiencing homelessness. When an individual is taken to the isolation units, a robust discharge plan will be started at the beginning. Once they are discharged, they can be moved to the healthy hotel while case workers are creating a housing plan. Employment navigators will also be placed at this hotel.
 - PfH and its partners are looking to use the supplemental ESG for the city to create additional RRH. Also, PfH and its partners are looking to prioritize PSH units as well as reallocate vouchers and subsidies. Diversion funds will be leveraged as well. The priority is to house even in this current environment.