

COVID-19 Update Meeting Minutes 4/21/20

Testing

- Over 2150 individuals have been tested. This number includes both the individuals tested through both Mercy Care and Fulton County.
- Mercy Care has finished with the large, congregate shelters and as of last Friday moved to focus on the unsheltered population. They have tested 3 sites so far this week. The results from 2 of these locations have been received and there have been no positive cases.
- 4 additional sites will be tested this week by Mercy Care.
- Tests are running at best 70-75% sensitivity. There is confidence in the positives. However, with negatives there is not certainty about where in the incubation period individuals may be.
 - Currently the CDC is not seeing a large number of individuals experiencing homeless going to hospitals. Rates have been consistent in hospitals in terms of ICU patients.
 - Looking forward, the best course of action is to look at continuing to decompress shelters to ensure continued services. Decompress encompasses maintaining social distancing, frequent hand washing, discouraging groups in communal spaces, etc.
- Once all unsheltered sites have been tested, Mercy Care will continue to do testing. They will be in discussion with Fulton County today about what this testing will look like. It will likely be more targeted and focused.
- PfH would like to emphasize the guidance from the CDC that a negative test result is not the best barometer for shelters for taking new intakes.

Isolation/Non-Congregate Hotel (NCH)

- The Isolation Unit Hotel currently has 44 guests. New intakes will be received as needed from current testing efforts and hospitals.
- PfH and its partners are working with the CDC to refine the discharge protocol and procedures. Fulton County is also in discussion as well as they are providing services to those units. Their emphasis will be on having a safe place for guests to discharge to.
- The NCH is scheduled to open tomorrow. This facility is targeted towards unsheltered individuals who are considered high risk as dictated by the CDC (65 years+ or underlying medical conditions).
- Street outreach teams and HOPE Atlanta will be screening the unsheltered population at the airport for high risk individuals. Guests will be able to stay longer at this hotel than those at the Isolation Unit Hotel. HOPE Atlanta will be providing case management and the emphasis will be to connect these individuals to a permanent housing solution.

Food/Supplies

- Between 1200-1500 meals are being distributed daily.
- There is continued mask distribution through the partnership with Medshare. There will be another distribution day later this week.
- The Tool Bank has various equipment (chairs, tables, 10x10 tents, sound systems, etc.) that can be provided for free to providers. A link will be sent out to their current inventory and how to request the equipment.

Information sharing, Questions, Comments

- With the limitations of the current tests, what would be the best policy/procedures to mitigate risk for shelters in order to begin taking new referrals?
 - The most important information is what is happening in the surrounding community. We currently know through the testing being done that the unsheltered population has minimal illness and is not transmitting disease. There are ways to keep shelters decompressed.
 - Questions should be asked as a CoC as to how intakes should be handled and how full shelters want to become.
- What is being done about the unsheltered at the airport, as they are not outside as much as other unsheltered individuals?
 - There are a lot less people at the airport currently compared to a few weeks ago. PfH and its partners suspect that many of those individuals are coming for food at the current testing sites this week. There will be an effort once the NCH opens to move high risk individuals to the NCH tomorrow. HOPE Atlanta is continually doing symptom screening.