

## COVID-19 Update Meeting Minutes 4/28/20

### Testing

- The full-scale deployment testing effort with the CDC ended last Friday. Testing will continue through Mercy Care and Fulton County. Details will be available soon, possibly this week.
- The testing will include some retesting of congregate shelters, especially those that had a positive case. Additionally, there will be further testing at some unsheltered sites and regular testing at the non-congregate facility.
- Approximately 2000 tests have been done in shelters, with a result of 31 positive cases. Approximately 800 unsheltered tests have been administered, with 5 positive clients. All sheltered and unsheltered individuals who tested positive have been reached and are either sheltering in place or have been referred to the isolation unit hotel.
- The CDC is looking to test for antibodies to confirm whether individuals have already been exposed. Mercy Care is looking into obtaining the antibody test. Also, with the state doing contact tracking, this will positively affect Mercy Care's ability to disseminate information to those exposed.

### Isolation Units and Non-Congregate Facility

- The isolation unit continues to operate with a total of 35 guests currently at the hotel. New intakes are being received from area hospitals.
- The non-congregate facility has been opened. By the end of the day today, there will be 50 guests. Up to 15 per day are being referred. The ramp up is slow due to needing to ramp up staffing at the same time.
  - Primary referrals for the non-congregate facility are from the HOPE Atlanta airport team, with secondary referrals from the street outreach teams. The referral process is currently being refined.

### Outreach and Encampments

- Outreach continues and includes education and delivery of supplies and food. PfH and its partners are hoping to ramp up efforts to be able to invite more individuals to the non-congregate facility.

### Food and Supplies

- Chelsea Arkin is continuing to lead the effort to deliver 1,400+ meals per day to unsheltered individuals and shelters in need of additional meals to feed their current populations.
- Shelters and kitchens that are in need of additional meals can contact Chelsea Arkin ([carkin@partnersforhome.org](mailto:carkin@partnersforhome.org)) to get connected.

### HMIS/DCA

- Screening is continuing throughout the state, with 80 new clients being screened in the Atlanta area. 3,500 screenings have been logged in HMIS throughout the state.

### Information Sharing, Questions, Comments

- Why will retesting be happening at the congregate shelters and not antibody testing?
  - Mercy Care is still unsure that they can obtain access to the antibody testing. In lieu of not having the antibody testing, retesting will be done in a targeted way by testing those that have not been tested or those that have a known positive exposure.
- Is there a count of the positive cases in the homeless population in the city in general, in addition to the numbers of positives received from Mercy Care, CDC, and Fulton County's testing efforts?
  - PfH is not receiving regular updates from area hospitals. Part of the challenge is that hospitals are not flagging the individuals as homeless or suspected homeless when they arrive.
- Has additional medical assistance begun at the IUH?
  - Yes, PfH has hired paramedics that act as Quality Assurance Officers (QAO) for both the isolation units and the non-congregate facility. They will be able to do basic medical assessments to assess the need for an individual to go to the ER.
  - PfH is also working with Mercy Care to stand up telemedicine at both locations. The QAOs will facilitate this connection at the isolation units and the non-congregate facility.
  - The case management team at the non-congregate facility is also making sure that those individuals have and are taking their medications. Tele-behavioral health will also be provided by Mercy Care soon.
- Grady is currently dropping off individuals at shelters without referrals.
  - Cathryn Marchman will be following up with Grady to make sure they are aware of shelters' intake processes and aware of the intake for referrals for the non-congregate facility as well.
- Routine care at Mercy Care will possibly be opening back up in the next week.
- CDC guidelines for non-emergency transport: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/disinfecting-transport-vehicles.html>