



COVID-19 HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE

Weekly COVID-19 Situation Report

7.10.2020 | Issue # 10

COVID-19 Testing Results

Reporting Period [3.23.2020 - 7.10.2020]

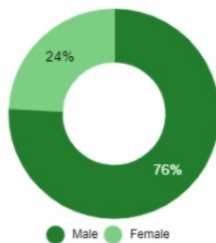
Below is data on the COVID-19 test results for homeless persons in the city of Detroit.

811 Tests Conducted
98 Total Positives
669* Total Negatives

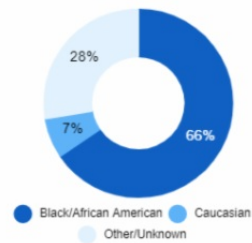
**Difference is a result of pending/invalid tests.*

Overall Demographics

Positive Cases by Gender



Positive Cases by Race



Positive Cases by Age



Of the tests administered:

8% have been completed by **hospitals**

13% have been completed by **Wayne State University**

79% have been completed by the **Detroit Health Department**

As of May 29, 2020 - there are a total of **3 guests** at the Alternative Shelter Sites [also referred to as Isolation Shelter Sites]. We have had a total of **193 total referrals** to these sites since the start of the program.

35% of the referrals to these Alternative Shelter Sites have come from **hospitals**

New Homelessness Response Actions Taken

Decline in use of Alternative Shelter Sites

We have seen a sharp decline in the number of persons utilizing our alternative shelter sites (for COVID-19 symptomatic and COVID-19 positive clients) throughout the month of June and into July. We have also seen a decline in the number of clients testing positive for COVID-19 in our system - despite expanding our efforts to regularly test shelters and congregate facilities. We believe this is a testament to the hard work of our system staff and the staff at the Detroit Health Department. This does not mean that we will be lessening our efforts or precautions. We just wanted to take this moment to acknowledge the positive trends we are seeing. Thank you everyone for your ongoing diligence!

Code Red Implementation

On Tuesday, we issued our first Code Red of the season due to the extreme heat index which reached over 105 degrees. Shelters are required to adhere to the following guidance under a Code Red issuance:

- Must not exit individuals, either voluntarily or involuntarily, out of shelter
- No shelter suspensions or bans can be carried out during severe weather
- Clients who have been banned can return to the shelter for the night in question, if necessary.
- Per existing protocol, any household that presents at shelter outside of CAM business hours is allowed to stay at the shelter for that night, as long as space permits.
- Shelter residents cannot be asked to leave the building during the day when Severe Weather is in effect.

Code Red also triggers the opening of several cooling centers throughout the city to provide respite to any unsheltered persons exposed to the heat. The list of cooling centers can be accessed by [clicking here](#). For those who would like more information, the full severe weather policy is linked in the button below.

[Detroit CoC Severe Weather Policy](#)

Encampment Policy

The City of Detroit engaged with homeless system partners in 2019 to develop an encampment policy that would guide the process to address health and safety concerns for a person that is living in an unsheltered situation. In the next couple of weeks, the City will release the finalized Encampment Policy. This policy represents a joint commitment between the Housing and Revitalization Department, Detroit Health Department, the Detroit Police Department, and the Detroit Continuum of Care. Training for all partners will be incorporated in the coming weeks.

COVID-19 Testing Strategy

At this point, all congregate homelessness facilities have been tested (with the exception of one that will be tested in the next week). The Detroit Housing and Revitalization Department, Detroit Health Department, Wayne State University, CAM, and HAND are partnering to develop a homeless system testing strategy with the goal of testing each congregate homeless facility at least once a month. This goal is to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and test before a person(s) becomes symptomatic. This strategy includes testing for people that are unsheltered. The partners will work closely with each provider to coordinate testing. More information to come.

CAM Data

91 Shelter Referrals Last Week

(averaging roughly 15 referrals a day)

56 single males (*avg. 9 daily*)

26 single females (*avg. 4 daily*)

9 families (*avg. <2 daily*)

6 Housing Referrals Last Week

Transitional Housing: 1

Rapid Re-Housing: 0

Permanent Supportive Housing: 5

Reporting Period [6.29 - 7.05.2020]

The Coordinated Assessment Model (CAM) is Detroit's coordinated entry system to homeless services. During the COVID-19 pandemic, CAM is operating a phone-based model. Any individual or family without a safe place to stay for the night can contact CAM at 313-484-4449, seven days a week from 7am-8:30pm for assistance.

Additionally, CAM is coordinating transportation to alternative shelters from emergency shelters and hospitals for people who are homeless and also are 1) experiencing COVID-19 symptoms; 2) awaiting COVID-19 test results; or 3) have tested positive for COVID-19.

[Visit CAM's website here.](#)

*****Got thoughts on data? Feel free to email camdetroit@swsol.org if there is specific data you are interested in seeing in the future, especially related to trends during the pandemic.*****

Important Updates

Overflow Shelter Closure

One of our CoC's overflow shelter sites - located at 626 E. Grand - will close on July 31st. Overflow sites are utilized when our year-round shelter facilities reach their maximum capacity and are unable to house new persons seeking shelter. They have been especially vital during COVID-19 as many of our shelters have had to reduce capacity in efforts to honor social distancing requirements. 626 E. Grand's closure is due to under-utilization. Our other overflow sites will remain open and available to serve clients.

Eviction Moratorium Lifting Soon

The statewide eviction moratorium is slated to lift on July 15th - at which point landlords can

begin legally evicting tenants for non-payment of rent. It is anticipated that many renters in Detroit will face the potential of displacement once the order lifts. Planning efforts have been underway for the past several weeks for how our system will respond and provide assistance to persons facing eviction. There are a number of financial resources coming into our community and we are working to create a coordinated response that provides easy access for anyone seeking assistance. Stay tuned for more information on these resources and our community's response plan.

Continuation of COVID-related ESP (Emergency Shelter Program) Changes

All ESP-funded agencies, please note the following message from Tim Beimers, our state's MDHHS Emergency Shelter Program Supervisor:

Thank you all for your continued work during this time of seemingly constant change. The services your agencies continue to provide are incredibly valuable to those we serve and your efforts do not go unnoticed. We also want to thank you all for continuing the work of ending homelessness. We continue to see households find permanent housing destinations due to the work of all of you and your staffs in the midst of all this. Below are a few ESP updates for July.

Program Changes Due to COVID-19 Update

As you all know, the ESP has made multiple adjustments due to COVID-19 in the past few months, including:

- *Waiving the 90 night reimbursement limit for shelter*
- *Waiving the signature requirement for clients in shelter and instead using a certification form signed by the provider*
- *Adjusting motel stays from 7 nights to 14 between extensions*
- *Allowing shelters to use alternative locations to have room for proper social distancing while still billing the ESP as long as services align with program requirements*
- *Monitoring visits are done virtually instead of in-person*

As more time passes, we are beginning to receive questions about how long these measures will be in place. The ESP team is working with MDHHS to evaluate these regularly. For the foreseeable future, these adjustments will remain in place. When the time comes to remove them, it will be communicated via email by the ESP Supervisor.

Continuation of COVID-19 Protocols

As we enter another month with COVID-19 and even with the Stay Home/Stay Safe order lifted, it is still important to abide by best practices when it comes to serving our clients. Our providers have done a wonderful job of creating safe environments for those we serve by following guidelines and working with local public health departments. I encourage you to not lose that momentum and continue to work hard at maintaining safe and healthy shelters by utilizing the best-practice protocols that have been put in place.

Homeless Service Provider Webinar

The City of Detroit, CAM, CSH and HAND are jointly hosting weekly webinars **every Friday at 9am** for homeless service providers. The goal of these webinars remains to bring stakeholders together to provide up-to-date information regarding COVID-19, respond to questions, and allow for targeted learning opportunities. **Note: attendees voted to switch to bi-weekly webinars. We will keep everyone posted if next week's (7/17) webinar is cancelled.**

You can access shared resources for providers as well as past webinar recording and materials [by clicking here](#).

You can register for the ongoing webinars [by clicking here](#).

If you would like to be added to the webinar invitations please email kaitie@handetroit.org

Helpful Resources

FREE Overdose Prevention Resource Availability

- The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has launched an [online portal](#) where community organizations can request free naloxone, a medication that reverses opioid overdoses and saves lives.
 - In 2018, opioid overdoses killed more than 2,000 Michiganders, or an average of five people every day. Naloxone saves thousands of lives each year by reversing the effects of an opioid overdose. However, a recent study found that only 25 percent of individuals using opioids in southeast Michigan had access to naloxone. Expanding naloxone access, especially for individuals at high risk of overdosing, is imperative and an integral part of Michigan's response to the opioid crisis.
 - **The portal is available to any community organization statewide, including substance use treatment providers, non-profits, harm reduction organizations, jails, first responders, local governments and small businesses.** MDHHS will review organizations' plans for distributing naloxone, especially to individuals at high risk of overdose. If approved, the organization will receive naloxone by mail; shipments are in increments of 12 kits and organizations are expected to have a plan for distribution and training for individuals at risk of overdose on how to use naloxone.
- Separately, NEXT Naloxone has also partnered with MDHHS to offer individuals free naloxone delivered by mail. Providing naloxone by mail-order will help people who cannot access naloxone in their area, have insurance barriers or other challenges.
 - NEXT Naloxone is a free, online service that makes naloxone available to people who use drugs, their families and friends, and others who may witness and respond to an overdose. NEXT Naloxone is available in Michigan through funding from Vital Strategies and a partnership with the harm-reduction organization The Grand Rapids Red Project. Individuals can place an order for mail delivery at Naloxoneforall.org/michigan.
- To help community organizations plan their naloxone distribution strategy, [MDHHS has also released a memorandum](#) on the state's strategy and guidance on naloxone distribution. For more information, please visit Michigan.gov/Opioids.

Equity Resources

- NAEH's Using ESG Funding Do's and Don'ts
 - [LINK](#)
- Framework for an Equitable COVID-19 Homelessness Response
 - [LINK](#)
- Equity-Based Decision-Making Framework
 - [LINK](#)
- From Trauma to Transformative Futures: A Framework of Four Dimensions
 - [LINK](#)
- The COVID-19 Racial Data Tracker
 - [LINK](#)

COVID-19 Testing

- All tri-county residents can now receive a free COVID-19 test without a prescription at the State Fairgrounds. You must have an appointment to be tested. To set up an appointment, **call 313-230-0505**.

Sanitation and Hygiene Resources for Unsheltered Persons

- Linked is the most [up to date map](#) that shows known locations of showers, bathrooms, hand washing stations, and laundry resources for those experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Detroit. You can also find a PDF by clicking on the button below.

Resource Compilations

- Detroit-Based Food Resources
 - [LINK](#)
- City of Detroit COVID 313 Page
 - [LINK](#)
- Wayne State Resource Compilation
 - [LINK](#)
- CoC Resource Compilation
 - [LINK](#)
- CSH Supportive Housing Resource Platform
 - [LINK](#)

Detroit CoC COVID-19 Webpage

Jointly Created by the City of Detroit, HAND, CAM, and CSH