



# COVID-19 HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE

## Weekly COVID-19 Situation Report

6.12.2020 | Issue # 8

### COVID-19 Testing Results

Reporting Period [3.23.2020 - 6.11.2020]

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

**744** Tests Conducted  
**97** Total Positives (12%)

Of the tests administered:

**8%** have been completed by **hospitals**

**16%** have been completed by **Wayne State University**

**76%** have been completed by the **Detroit Health Department**

As of June 12, 2020 - there are a total of **0 guests** at the Type 1 and 2 Alternative Shelter Sites [also referred to as Isolation Shelter Sites]. **This is the second week that we have not had any guests at these sites since the start of the pandemic.** We have had a total of **186 total referrals** to these sites since the start of the program.

**65 (35%)** of the referrals to these Alternative Shelter Sites have come from **hospitals**

**98 (53%)** came from our **traditional shelters** and

**23 (12%)** came from **outreach providers**

#### Shelter Type 3

As mentioned last week, Type 3 Shelter is a site for high risk individuals who are not symptomatic or COVID-19 positive, are at high risk for complications if contracting the virus, and have been referred to housing. The City has worked with CAM and navigators to identify these individuals and move them into this non-congregate shelter facility.

As of June 12th 2020 - there are a total of **23 single adults** at shelter Type 3.

### New Homelessness Response Actions Taken

## Planning Around In-Person CAM Access

The CAM Lead Agency and CAM Governance Committee are working on plans to slowly ramp up in-person Access Points again. The CAM will most likely operate in a hybrid sort of model (operating both in-person Access Points and phone line) for the foreseeable future. Stay tuned for more details!

## Plan to Continue Testing at Shelters

The inter-agency planning team is continuing to explore options to continue testing for shelters and other congregate homeless facilities. As more testing becomes available, it's important that clients are reminded that testing negative for COVID-19 does not mean that they'll be COVID-19 free forever. Some shelters and therefore clients may be offered testing more than once over the course of the pandemic to continue to slow the spread. We must all work to educate clients that testing negative once may mean that you can test positive in the future and increased testing, even testing multiple times is the best way to prevent the spread.

## Frontline Staff Pay

Funding has been secured to provide bonus pay to all Emergency Shelter staff who have been working directly with clients during the pandemic. Award letters went out to the different shelters in the CoC on 6/8/2020. Signed award letters are due back to the City of Detroit by the close of business on 6/12/2020. The remaining documents are due by the close of business on 6/19/2020. We are excited to be able to compensate our frontline staff for all of their hard work and their dedication to some of our most vulnerable Detroiters over the past few months.

## Advocating on Behalf of Unsheltered Persons in Detroit

On June 9th, a letter was submitted to officials at the City of Detroit on behalf of Detroit's Continuum of Care (CoC - our local homelessness response system). The letter advocated for the City to honor the policy that it developed in coordination with the CoC and numerous other stakeholders which outlines a process by which encampments of unsheltered homeless persons are engaged with. The policy asserts that encampments are only to be cleared if they pose a risk to health and safety. Further, it outlined how to assess this risk and gave a clearly delineated process by which encampments should be cleared when necessary. It is always important to follow established protocol, but the consequences of deviation are even more stark amidst a global pandemic. These stark consequences are what led us to advocacy. The full text of the letter can be found by clicking on the button below:

[Encampment Advocacy Letter](#)

## PPE Distribution Updates

Efforts continue to provide PPE to all of our shelters, congregate facilities, and outreach teams. PPE supply pick up will now take place at the former location of the NSO Tumaini Center: 3430 3rd Street. We thank all of our generous partners for their donations over the past several weeks. We would not have been able to keep our clients and staff safe without your generous support.

## Ensuring Clients are Counted in the 2020 Census

The 2020 Census is underway! The Census for those experiencing homelessness is referred to as Service-Based Enumeration and follows a slightly different process than the traditional Census. If your emergency shelter or transitional housing program has not been counted yet, please reach out to the City of Detroit to receive additional information and assistance with completing the

process.

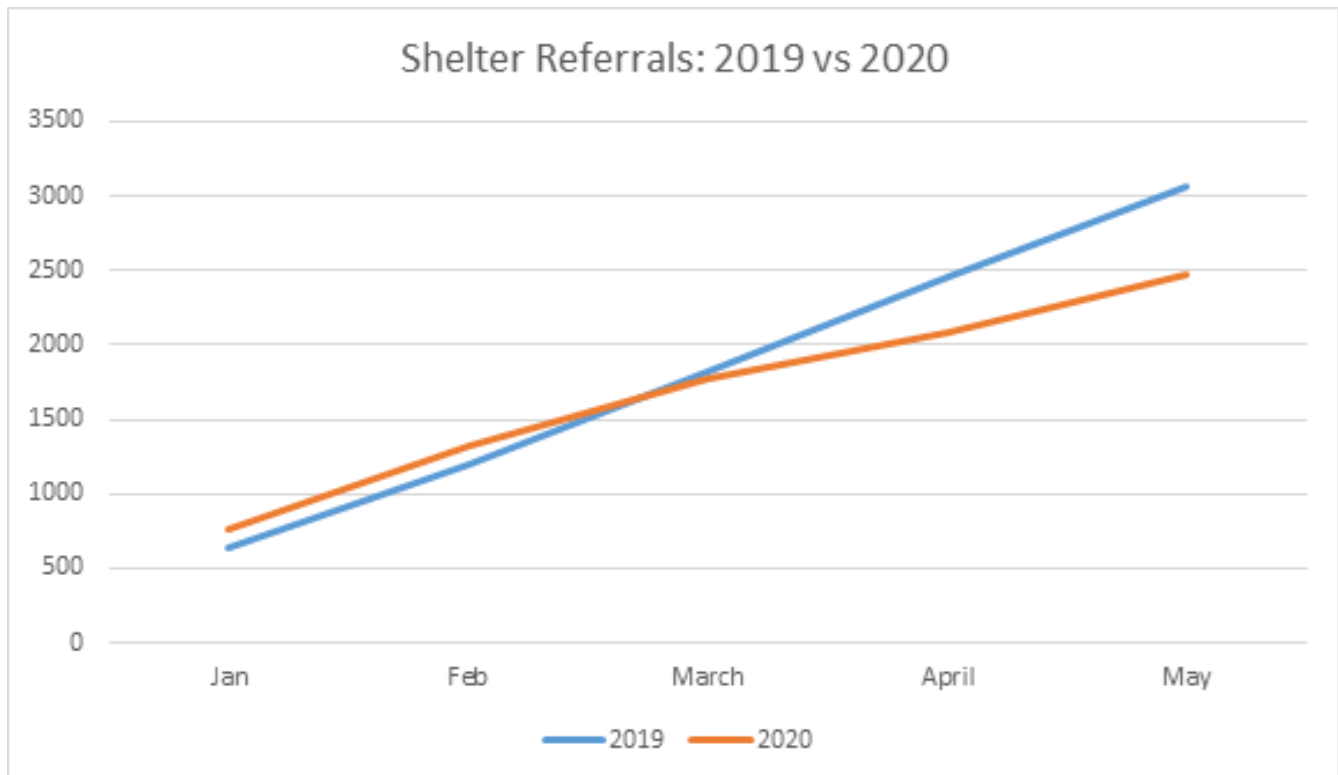
All housing providers should encourage their clients to fill out the census during their regularly scheduled case management visit. Clients residing in their own units are able to complete the traditional Census form. For those who haven't completed it yet, the Census can be filled out by [clicking here](#).

## CAM Data

### Trends in Shelter Referrals

In lieu of providing the standard weekly update on total referrals from CAM, we wanted to follow the theme from last week and provide a brief analysis on the shelter referral trends we are seeing so far this year.

The chart below compares the total number of referrals to **Emergency Shelter** from January 01 - May 31, 2019 with the total referrals from January 01 - May 31, 2020. Please note that this graph is compounding - meaning that the total number of referrals for each month are added to each other (coming to a cumulative total for the 5 month period).



As you can see from the graphic, Shelter referrals were fairly consistent between 2019 and 2020 until the pandemic. There are number of factors that we believe have contributed this slowing of the rate of shelter referrals over the past few months, including:

- People utilizing more supports to avoid entering a congregate shelter setting
- Less movement of clients between shelters due to MDHHS' lifting of the 90-day shelter funding limit
- Less movement between shelters due to the extension of our warming center's operation from March to May.

We hope to continue to bring further analysis in future webinars and situational reports.

## Important Updates

## Extension of the State-Wide Eviction Moratorium

On June 11, 2020, Governor Whitmer **extended the state-wide eviction moratorium until June 30th** by signing Executive Order 2020-118. The moratorium provides "protections for tenants and mobile home owners from being evicted from their homes." The Governor felt that the extension protects some of Michigan's most vulnerable residents and allows them to continue to isolate in the safety of their homes. You can read the full text of the order by clicking on the button below.

We also wanted to update you on the planning efforts that are underway among leadership in Detroit's Homeless Response System to prevent persons from experiencing homelessness once the eviction moratorium lifts. Some of the efforts underway include the following:

- The City of Detroit has allocated \$5 million in funding for homelessness prevention,
- The CoC is working to advocate with the courts for protections for Detroit's residents and
- An inter-agency group of stakeholders is working to develop a comprehensive homeless prevention strategy.

[Full Text of Executive Order 2020-118](#)

## Homeless Services Funding Opportunity

The City of Detroit released information on its Homeless Solutions and ESG-CV funding opportunity on June 10, 2020. This Request for Proposals (RFP) includes resources from the City's traditional yearly funding availability as well as the additional resources provided from the CARES Act (ESG-CV). Funding is available for the following service types: homelessness prevention, street outreach, emergency shelter, and rapid re-housing. The full text of the RFP can be accessed by clicking on the button below.

Some important dates to be aware of are as follows:

- **June 19th from 9:30am - 12pm**
  - The city will host a webinar to review the RFP, eligible activities, scoring, and the process to apply in Oracle.
  - [Register by clicking here](#)
- **June 23rd from 11:am - 12pm.**
  - The City will host a Q&A session about the RFP. This is an applicant's ONLY chance to ask questions about the RFP.
  - [Register by clicking here](#)
- **July 8th by 4pm**
  - All proposals must be submitted to the City of Detroit on or before this time

[Notice of Funding Availability](#)

## 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: Beginning on 6/5, the webinars will alternate between focusing on shelter/outreach content and content for housing providers. June 19th's webinar will be focused on our CoC's housing providers. We hope to see you there!***

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](mailto:kaitie@handetroit.org)

## Helpful Resources

### 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 an [updated 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.

[Sanitation and Hygiene Resource Map](#)

### 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