



Phase II Re-Opening for Congregate Shelter Providers

As of June 22, 2020

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to congregate shelter providers on services during the District's Phase Two Reopening.

Universal Safeguards

Across all phases of re-opening, success will depend on the commitment of staff and residents to adopt new behaviors and rigorous safeguards to reduce risk. These universal safeguards include:

- Use of masks in community spaces in your program
- Regular screenings
- Physical distancing of at least six feet
- Stringent personal sanitation and hygiene practices (e.g. frequent hand washing)
- Regular cleaning and disinfection of surfaces and objects

Shelter Operations

There will be no major adjustments to shelter operations based on the District's move to Phase Two. Safeguards put into place to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in congregate shelter have been effective in reducing the spread of COVID-19 and will continue for now. These include:

- Keeping shelters open 24 hours
- Maintaining reduced capacity at shelters
- Continuing to serve lunches and "grab and go" meals
- On-demand transportation is still on hold
- Daily screenings of clients, staff, and visitors
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection
- Referring clients that are sick or experiencing symptoms or who test positive to DHS ISAQ sites
- Assigning clients to the same dorms and beds whenever possible
- Providing single rooms accommodations (PEPV) for clients that are most at risk of serious complications from COVID-19
- Contact tracing and deep cleaning and disinfection after positive cases

Mass testing

To continue to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in congregate sites, DHS has worked with the DC Health to develop a strategy for mass testing at congregate shelters. Mass testing will be used to identify clients and staff who are asymptomatic and would not be identified through the screening process. In the event of a new positive case, DHS will work directly with your program to develop a testing plan.

For questions about this guidance, please email dhs.covid19@dc.gov