

Emergency Management Plan – Disease Prevention Measures

How are you promoting practice of everyday prevention strategies including handwashing; covering your cough; avoid contact with eyes, nose and mouth; clean and disinfect common living areas, etc.? What are your standard cleaning practices implemented daily within your facilities?

Have you made any changes to your operations to promote health hygiene and disease prevention? This may include adding handwashing stations, adjusting bed set-up so people are sleeping head to toe and at least 3ft apart, placing trash cans and tissues near doors, providing cleaning tools at key point within the facility, etc.

How are you handling client belongings? Are staff provided with protective gloves? Have you discussed with your staff protocols on meeting with clients and completing home visits? Have you discussed prevention strategies with staff members completing home visits?

How are you limiting the number of visitors coming in and out of the facility? Are you assuring visitors are adhering to prevention strategies implemented?

How are you limiting the gathering of large groups or large meetings? Are you providing prevention strategies to your volunteers that provide meals and other volunteer services? Programs that provide meals are you considering a plan to serve clients in multiple shifts?

Do you have COVID-19 prevention supplies available, such as soap, alcohol-based hand sanitizers that contain at least 60% alcohol, tissues, trash baskets, general cleaning supplies (bleach, etc.), disinfecting wipes and disposable facemasks? Face masks should only be used for people who are sick. Do you have a plan in place to provide extra supplies on hand for staff and clients?

How are you screening new intakes for symptoms? How are you monitoring the health of existing program participants? Do you have a plan in place to provide regular monitoring of clients at high risk (i.e. older or underlying existing health conditions)? All providers should be using the screening questions provided by Montgomery County Public Health Services distributed on March 10, 2020. Any changes to these screening questions will be distributed.

Do you have a way to isolate or minimize exposure for individuals with mild respiratory symptoms but do not meet the criteria for COVID-19 testing? Are you minimizing the face-to-face interactions between staff and individuals with respiratory symptoms?

How are you identifying program participants that are at high risk of COVID-19 complications? How are you assuring your response protocols are trauma-informed so they do not exacerbate mental health conditions or trigger high risk behaviors?

How are you partnering with Healthcare providers on-site or other visiting community health care providers? Have you developed a list of alternative healthcare facilities or care sites where clients can seek appropriate care as needed?

How are you communicating with staff, volunteers, and program participants about COVID-19 prevention? How are you staying informed and only getting information from trusted resources? Have you downloaded COVID19 posters and CDC fact sheets for display in your facility? Do you need DHHS to make copies available? How will you handle language barriers or cultural differences? Materials can be downloaded [here](#).

Have you discussed with staff how to report cases to our local health department at Dennis Avenue?

Are you identifying critical job functions and positions, and planning for alternative coverage by cross-training staff members when you have sick staff members?