

From: [Rachowicz, Lisa \(HOM\)](#)
To: [HSHSunshine](#)
Subject: S070720Bridegam FW: Urgent: Shelter Testing Policy Changes
Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2020 3:11:22 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)



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From: Walton, Scott (HOM) <Scott.Walton@sfgov.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 12:38 PM
To: Perdue, Cathy (HOM) <cathy.perdue@sfgov.org>; Rachowicz, Lisa (HOM) <lisa.rachowicz@sfgov.org>; Washington, Janay (HOM) <janay.washington@sfgov.org>; Bracco, Louis (HOM) <louis.bracco@sfgov.org>; Medina, Elisabet (HOM) <elisabet.medina@sfgov.org>; Cannariato, Umecke (HOM) <umecke.cannariato@sfgov.org>
Subject: FW: Urgent: Shelter Testing Policy Changes

Hello Shelter/Nav Team –

This will be rolling out starting this afternoon. Please do not share it with your providers at this time as the roll-out is being implemented under the instructions of the leadership of HSH.

Basically, this supports a transition at sites that have been designated as COVID Negative to serve a combination of COVID Negative and COVID Unknown guests.

Scott

From: Schneider, Dylan (HOM) <dylan.schneider@sfgov.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 8:50 AM
To: Walton, Scott (HOM) <Scott.Walton@sfgov.org>
Subject: Fw: Urgent: Shelter Testing Policy Changes

FYI for shelter team call today. Mecca was included in this email last night but this is what was shared with Exec Team.

Thank you,
Dylan

Dylan Schneider (she/her), MPA

Manager of Policy and Legislative Affairs

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From: Schneider, Dylan (HOM) <dylan.schneider@sfgov.org>

Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:37 PM

To: Stewart-Kahn, Abigail (HOM) <abigail.stewart-kahn@sfgov.org>; Black, Dedria (HOM) <dedria.black@sfgov.org>; Cohen, Emily (HOM) <emily.cohen@sfgov.org>; Whitley, Gigi (HOM) <gigi.whitley@sfgov.org>; Cannariato, Umecke (HOM) <umecke.cannariato@sfgov.org>

Subject: Urgent: Shelter Testing Policy Changes

Hi HSH Executive Team + Mecca,

Sharing draft from Dr. Deb Borne regarding changes to shelter testing procedures. As this is an urgent item needing approval tonight, and as we no longer have daily Executive Team calls Abigail has given the greenlight to move forward with next steps (below). However I want to make sure you are all aware of this change to shelter testing policy, next steps and why there was urgency around this decision.

Deb Borne (DPH) also joined the HSH 3:30pm staff call on Friday and began to socialize this with our staff so we could begin thinking about implementation, communication to providers and clients and potential policy discussions around mitigation strategies. Deb has been in good communication with Abigail and the HSA DOC as this timeline and recommendation unfolded.

Urgency:

Embarcadero and Bayshore were both tested last week and into the weekend and a good portion of clients at each were not tested due to being offsite even with advanced notice and incentives. In order for HSH to temporarily close and move clients from Dolores, Hospitality House and A Woman's Place this week it is imperative that we open at least Embarcadero for

new referrals by Friday.

Overview:

Thus far, public health guidance has been more conservative around congregate sites and has required testing before entrance to COVID- sites. As we have seen from testing over the last week, this has proved challenging. The CDC is also expected to release guidance this week that recommends not having testing as a barrier to entering congregate sites.

Deb made the good point today that testing is a point in time where as mitigation is sustainable best practices. For example, the EOC does not test to enter but follows strict mitigation practices to promote health and safety of staff in a shared space.

- Testing is not required to enter a congregate shelter
- Regular testing would be encouraged 1 x month for clients and 2 x month for staff
- Health screenings for all guests each time they come/go from a site
- Mitigation would continued to be encouraged at all congregate sites with support provided from DPH on training and implementation
 - Physical distancing
 - Wearing of face-coverings by staff and clients
 - Regular handwashing
 - Cohorting of those not following mitigation guidelines when possible

Next Steps:

- Dylan confirm with Scott/Elisabet, HSA DOC and DPH that we are moving this forwards
- Abigail (w/ Deb Borne if possible) will call Steve Good with 5 Keys tomorrow to socialize this decision and have Steve work with staff to implement so we can open Embarcadero by Friday and work towards implementing at Bayshore and Moscone West.
- Scott/Dar and HSA DOC will work with Embarcadero Staff to accept referrals from shelter by Friday
- Abigail (w/ Deb Borne) will follow up with Sharri from SVPD this week to socialize
- Mecca/Scott work to communicate this change to shelter team
- As contracts were set up to not be COVID status specific, we do not expect contract changes to result from this change.

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From: Borne, Deborah (DPH) <deborah.borne@sfdph.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:42 PM
To: Schneider, Dylan (HOM) <dylan.schneider@sfgov.org>; Walton, Scott (HOM) <Scott.Walton@sfgov.org>; Kaplan, Daniel (HSA) <daniel.kaplan@sfgov.org>; Simmons, Noelle (HSA) <noelle.simmons@sfgov.org>; Barone, Doris (HSA) <doris.barone@sfgov.org>
Cc: Hiramoto, Kelly (DPH) <kelly.hiramoto@sfdph.org>; Skotnes, Tobi (DPH) <tobi.skotnes@sfdph.org>; Medina, Elisabet (HOM) <elisabet.medina@sfgov.org>
Subject: Draft COVID testing in shelter

Dylan and HSH/HSA colleagues

Please see an attached draft of the shelter policy we are proposing.
We will need to discuss the next steps to ensure Staff participation in the testing event and guest attendance at any surveillance testing in the future.

If this is acceptable, we agree to not do on-site testing at Dolores shelter and not require testing to move those individuals to a new location. We are available to support this process anyway we can.

best
Deb

Deborah Borne, MSW, MD
Medical Director, Transitions Division
San Francisco Health Network
San Francisco Department of Public Health
415-225-1074

The goal of the Transitions Division is to ensure clients are stabilized in the *most appropriate*, least restrictive setting in the most cost effective manner.

"Those of us who are health care providers, scientists, students and scholars have a responsibility to amplify the voices of the patients we serve – to involve ourselves in

public discourse and to seek more just policies,”

-Margot Kushel, UCSF Chancellor's 2018 State of the University Address.

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Thank you.

Overview of Policy for Testing of Sheltered and Unsheltered Homeless

Premise:

1. Testing is for diagnosing COVID-19 in symptomatic individuals
2. Testing is to case find asymptomatic individuals – most critical for patients at high risk of severe COVID-19 disease and those in vulnerable congregate settings
3. Testing can be used to keep people safe from unintended exposure eg before elective surgery, dentist
4. Point prevalence/epidemiological investigation

Priority for Testing: Determined by testing capacity

1. Outbreak in a shelter or encampment (>3 cases)
2. Targeted shelter testing in response to one case (staff or guest)
3. Targeted tent/encampment household in response to one case
4. Surveillance of high risk location – eg shelter
5. Encampments that are dense, in high populated area, large size, contain people with high risk of severe COVID-19 per CDC criteria

A Vulnerable person or a person living in a vulnerable locations can get tested if asymptomatic or symptomatic at a testing center or with a medical provider

1. High risk of severe COVID-19 per CDC criteria PEH in emergency Shelters/transitional housing – (single room or shared room-shared bathroom eg keen hotel)
2. High risk individuals living in SIPS or other hotels where no amenities

TESTING BY LOCATION:

1. SHELTERS: As part of mitigation strategy for Shelter

- **No testing for admission to shelter (CDC recommendation):**
 - Except consider in – non-porous, tight knit ‘shelter in place’ locations such as
 - DV shelter
 - Family Shelter
 - Medical Respite or Hummingbird
- **Case finding/surveillance testing plan:**
 - Recommend all staff test every 2 weeks (at off-site testing location unless facility testing occurs that week)
 - If a staff is positive for COVID-19, next steps for testing of additional staff and residents will be based on SFDPH recommendations.
- **Test guests once per month as the entire facility**
 - Will test only those who are present at day of testing, and who agree to testing.
 - Testing is not mandatory to stay in shelter.

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2. Safe Sleeping Sites/Village: Currently no surveillance plan. Using symptom screening and test referral only.

3. Encampments:

- Point prevalence testing of high density encampments in dense neighborhoods, and/or if people high risk for COVID -19 in an encampment

Clarification of Testing related challenges:

1. Anyone who misses testing:

- Recommendation that all people in shelter agree to wear mask, cohort as able and strict adherence to social distancing until shelter tested again
- Testing in shelter
- Ensure mitigation efforts are upheld

2. How to address a guest who declines testing and will remain in the shelter?

- Recommendation that all people in shelter agree to wear mask, cohort as able and strict adherence to social distancing until shelter tested again
- Ensure mitigation efforts are upheld

3. What to do if someone declines to go to isolation and quarantine when they are COVID positive?

- Counseling to encourage adherence
- For individuals who refuse quarantine, decisions will be made on an individual basis with assistance from Department of Public Health on next best destination. DPH recommends they not remain in the shelter/navigation center unless safe cohorting can be accommodated.
- Report to (415) 608-1515 (AMA Recovery Line) or covid19amarecovery@sfdph.org and the DPH will assist with how they can support individuals.

4. How to address a guest who is a close contact of a positive case and does not want to go to isolation and quarantine site?

- For individuals who refuse quarantine, decisions will made on an individual basis with assistance from Department of Public Health.

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