



UPDATE FROM THE ASSEMBLY
COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS
REGARDING HOMELESSNESS SERVICES
DURING THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY

The Mayor's Emergency Declaration was originally issued March 12, 2020 and extended to *June 5, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.*

Hunker Down EO-03 was reissued and will expire on *May 5, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.*

Mass Shelter at Sullivan and Ben Boeke arenas was established in March 2020.

Other shelter providers have frozen their intakes and many have reduced capacity to comply with CDC guidance:

[Shelter Dashboard](#)

[Mass Shelter Information](#)

Individuals who need to be screened, isolated or quarantined due to COVID-19 will be provided space at Dempsey arena.

Next Meeting:

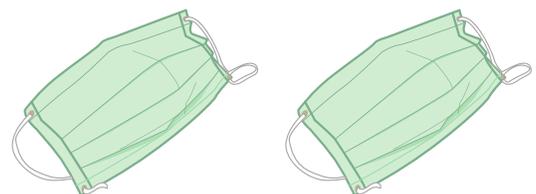
May 20, 2020, 11am-12:30pm, Details TBA

HUNKER DOWN AND HOMELESSNESS

The Hunker Down order is substantially unchanged, except it now defines home to include temporary residence and temporary shelter. It also requires residents to stay home except for essential trips (groceries, medical appoints, essential work) and outdoor recreation.

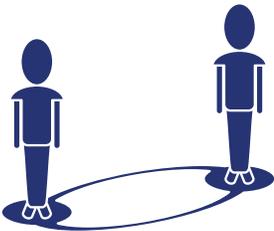


Hunker Down strongly encourages essential workers and individuals to wear face coverings (masks) when in public. Disposable masks for shelter clients, staff and individuals in the community are being obtained and will be distributed when received.



SERVICES HUB

Outside the mass shelter there is now a Services Hub to connect individuals with a variety of social services, including housing and case management. There are additional services on site that will help people access financial assistance - applying for unemployment, stimulus funds and health insurance. In the coming weeks we will have Providence Residency program joining the Hub to assist with medical and medication needs on site. These connections will help individuals move from shelter to more stable housing situations as quickly as possible.



CAMP ABATEMENT

At present, the Municipality intends to notice, abate and clean camps as shelter space is available starting in May when seasonal crews are once again hired.



COORDINATED RESPONSE



ACEH is working with shelter and housing providers to get all individuals experiencing homelessness into the statewide HMIS (data) system as quickly as possible. This data collection allows providers to partner better with AHD and the EOC for COVID tracing purposes but also creates a more rapid referral system for individuals in need to connect as quickly as possible to available housing and services.



Community Partner, the Anchorage Downtown Partnership, is providing expanded patrols in the neighborhood adjacent to the Mass Shelter to mitigate neighborhood impacts.

COORDINATED RESPONSE



United Way of Anchorage (and partners) is participating in the coordinated response to the pandemic as follows:

- Alaska 2-1-1 is providing information and resource referral services, navigation assistance, and specialized information at the direction of the MOA EOC and the State, DHSS, and is operating 7 days a week from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. From 3/9 through 4/9, 2-1-1 handled 8609 calls, 5934 were from Anchorage callers; a four-fold increase over the same period in 2019.
- 182 households (578 individuals) suffering lay-offs, furloughs, or income loss due to the shelter in place restrictions have received rent and utility assistance; and major donations made to increase food resources. Funds are raised through a partnership called AK Can Do and 100% of the funds raised go directly to neighbor to neighbor supports. AK Can Do also provides financial support to non-profit organizations on the front lines of serving the community.
- Home for Good is housing (and hopes to soon accelerate the number of clients served) those experiencing chronic homelessness as part of reducing the spread of the virus and reducing the demand for shelter and possible quarantine centers.

COORDINATED RESPONSE

The philanthropic community is working collaboratively and engaging directly with providers, ACEH and the MOA to meet critical needs as they arise. The Alaska Community Foundation and UWA are coordinating on the AK Can Do fund to support non-profits and citizens directly. Thanks to many individuals and organizations who have provided funds for either or both purposes.

Rasmuson Foundation and the Mental Health Trust have each funded a new housing navigator to help move clients out of the shelters and into housing. New grants have also been made to support additional rapid rehousing and to create some emergency capacity for safe quarantine and isolation in hotels for new clients of AWAIC. Rasmuson Foundation has recently funded new initiatives through the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project for navigation, permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing. Multiple funders have provided financial assistance in various other ways including (but not exclusively) GCI, Block Foundation, Premera Foundation, and Conoco Philips.