

Safety Guidance for Conducting an Unsheltered PIT Count

People experiencing unsheltered homelessness may be at risk for infection when there is community spread of COVID-19. Listed below are resources and guidance for safely conducting the PIT Count.

Staff/Volunteers Prevention Measures

- Stay updated on the local level of transmission of COVID-19 through your [local external icon](#) and [state](#) health departments.
- Provide training and educational materials related to COVID-19 for staff/volunteers.
- Minimize the number of staff/volunteers who have face-to-face interactions with clients.
- Assign outreach staff/volunteers who are at [increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19](#) to duties that do not require them to interact with clients in person.
- Encourage outreach staff/volunteers to maintain good hand hygiene by washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer on a regular basis, including before and after each client interaction
- Advise staff/volunteers to maintain 6 feet of distance while interacting with clients and other staff/volunteers, where possible.
- Require outreach staff/volunteers to wear [masks](#) when working in public settings or interacting with clients. They should still maintain 6 feet from each other and clients, even while wearing masks.
- Advise outreach staff/volunteers to avoid handling client belongings. If staff/volunteers are handling client belongings, they should use disposable gloves, if available.
- Outreach staff/volunteers should launder work uniforms or clothes after use using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and dry items completely.

Staff/Volunteers Guidance for Outreach

- In the process of conducting outreach, staff/volunteers should
- Greet clients from a distance of 6 feet and explain that they are taking additional precautions to protect themselves and the client from COVID-19.
- If the client is not wearing a mask, provide them with one.
- Screen clients for symptoms by asking them if they feel as if they have a fever, cough, or other [symptoms consistent with COVID-19](#).
 - Children have similar symptoms to adults and generally have mild illness
 - Older adults and persons with medical comorbidities may have delayed presentation of fever and respiratory symptoms.
 - If medical attention is necessary, use standard outreach protocols to facilitate access to healthcare.
- Continue conversations and provision of information while maintaining 6 feet of distance.

- If at any point they do not feel that they are able to protect themselves or your client from the spread of COVID-19, they should discontinue the interaction and notify their supervisor. Examples include if the client declines to wear a mask or if they are unable to maintain a distance of 6 feet.
- Use [health messages and materials developed](#) by credible public health sources, such as your local and state public health departments or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
 - Post signs in strategic places (e.g. near handwashing facilities) providing instruction on [hand washing](#) and [cough etiquette pdf icon](#).
 - Provide educational materials about COVID-19 for [non-English speakers](#), those with low literacy or intellectual disabilities, and people who are hearing or vision impaired.
 - Ensure communication with clients about changes in homeless services policies and/or changes in physical location of services such as food, water, hygiene facilities, regular healthcare, and behavioral health resources.