



## EL PASO COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

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March 16, 2020

Community Stakeholders,

As COVID-19 has descended upon our community, EPCH wants to ensure that all members, partners, stakeholders and consumers remain safe during this pandemic and encourages the following safety tips as recommended by the El Paso City Health Department epidemiologist at last Thursday's General Membership Meeting:

- Wash hands frequently for at least 20 seconds with soap and water.
- Cover mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing with a tissue, rag, sleeve if nothing else. Dispose of rag or tissue in lined garbage receptacle.
- Wipe down surfaces with a bleach-based product frequently.
- Maintain social distance - 3 to 6 feet - from others. No handshakes, hugs or clusters of people.
- For those in shelters, recommend sleeping head-to-toe instead of head-to-head.
- If clients are displaying symptoms, limit their exposure to others in your shelter to the extent possible and contact local FQHCs to request assistance:
  - San Vicente Clinic Information <https://www.sanvicente.org/locations>
  - Project Vida Clinic Information <https://www.pvida.net/clinics>
- If you feel you or your staff are sick – STAY HOME and self-quarantine. Call the doctor if you are not getting better.
- Before going to a doctor's office or clinic, call ahead to get special instructions on where to go and how to get help, don't just walk in.
- It is strongly encouraged that you refrain from going to the Emergency Room.
- Disease Risks and Homelessness resource page: <https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/diseases/#covid-19-community-planning-and-preparedness>

We also want to assure you that we are being conscientious about this situation and how it will impact our service to you as providers. We're looking at all preventative measures, both internally and externally, to maintain our level of service while protecting staff and stakeholders.

Until further notice the following procedures will be implemented:

- All standing meetings including General Membership, Planning & HMIS Steering are canceled.
- All committee meetings tied to other initiatives may or may not be canceled, depending on the committee size and location to ensure sufficient social distancing is achievable. These meetings will be evaluated on a case by case basis and committee members will be informed directly through email.
- If practical, meetings will be facilitated via electronic means. At the determination of committee chairs, you will be notified directly of such meeting including time, log-in information and/or call-in numbers.
- HMIS training and technical assistance will remain available. If you require HMIS at a location other than your program, please contact HMIS staff to make arrangements for access.
- For the time being, EPCH staff will remain available during regular office hours, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. only by phone, 915-843-2170, and email. You will be notified if we close the office to work remotely.

The CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> and City of El Paso <https://www.elpasotexas.gov/public-health/coronavirus> can provide you with the most updated and accurate information for our community including flyers and posters for your facility.

Please be vigilant as we work through this together and be assured that we will keep you informed of health and safety guidance!

Thank you,  
El Paso Coalition for the Homeless