



## Identification and Screening Protocol Coronavirus (Covid-19)

During the COVID-19 pandemic, UCS seeks to provide greater details, precautions and change of procedures on top of our current “*Infectious Disease Outbreak*” protocols found in our Safety Manual.

### **PROTOCOL C19** **Emergency Night Shelters (NS)**

1. **NS staff will personally sign-in each guest** (Guests will not complete sign-in form)

2. [PROGRAM ENTRY]

**NS staff will take the forehead temperature of every guest entering the NS**

- Record results in the “TEMP 1” column of the NS Sign-in Sheet
- Observe behavior for signs of fever, coughing, shortness of breath
- Encourage patience and understanding during this unprecedented time
- Share these measures are for their wellbeing and safety

3. [QUESTIONS]

**NS staff will conduct the following screening for every guest entering the NS:**

- Have you traveled to or been in close contact with anyone who has travelled to Hubei province in China, including Wuhan, OR have had contact with someone with who has been diagnosed with or been exposed to the “Coronavirus” in the past 14 days?
- Are you experiencing a new fever or worsening fever?
- Are you experiencing a new or worsening cough?
- Are you experiencing a new or worsening shortening of breath?
- Have you been tested for COVID-19?
  - Where (Which hospital/testing facility?)
  - When (How long ago?)
  - Why (What were your symptoms?)
  - By Whom (Doctor’s/Nurse’s name?)

**Given that our guests may have chronic respiratory issues or allergies, please follow up and restate these above two questions and ask again:**

- If you always have a cough, is this cough worse than normal? How many days has it been really bad?

- ii. You get short of breath sometimes, but are you having more trouble than usual? Are you out of breath just trying to talk?

#### 4. [RESPONSE]

- **If the guest answers “YES” to having been tested for COVID-19, they are not allowed to enter/remain on UCS property AND should have been referred by the hospital to the **Evansville Independent Self-Isolation Center**. See ISOLATION/QUARANTINE guidelines below.**
- **If the guest answers “yes” to any other question**, the guest is to be given a surgical mask that must be worn while in the confines of UCS.
- **Any guest that has a temperature of 99 or greater** will be required to have a second temperature taken upon their departure from the NS by NS staff and that number will be recorded in the “TEMP 2” column (regardless of what time they leave).
- **A temperature of 100.4 or greater may be an early sign of the virus.** Any guest who with a temperature of 101 or greater and shows signs (worsening cough or shortness of breath) will be required to contact, by way of telephone, a local triage line for further instruction:
  - Deaconess’ Triage Line at (812) 450-6555
  - St. Vincent’s Triage Line at (812) 485-2273

#### 5. [CONSEQUENCES & SHIFT REPORT]

- **If a guest says they have been tested OR staff is contacted by a hospital about admitting a guest, they are to refer guests back to the testing hospital for referral to the **Evansville Independent Self-Isolation Center** or refer the hospital to that facility. Also, all staff is to **IMMEDIATELY alert PROGRAM COORDINATORS** (via email) of the occurrence and name of guest/referral, if available**
- **If the guest refuses to wear the surgical mask**, they will be compassionately and strongly encouraged to do so.
- **If they still refuse**, they will be asked to leave the shelter for non-compliance for the night and to rethink their choices.
- **If the guest refuses to make Triage Telephone contact**, they will be asked to leave the shelter for non-compliance for the night to rethink their choices.
  - Based on these two acts of noncompliance alone, the guest will not be barred and given another chance the next night at entry. Further refusal to comply at that time will result in a loss of bed.

#### 6. [ISOLATION and/or QUARANTINE]

**Isolation** separates sick people with a contagious disease like COVID-19 from people who are not sick and **Quarantine** separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease like COVID-19 to see if they become sick.

**IMPORTANT:** The Catholic Diocese of Evansville’s Sarto Retreat House is now a voluntary self-isolation center for people experiencing homelessness during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The facility, named **Evansville Independent Self-Isolation Center**, provides a safe, secure place for those experiencing homelessness.

- Individuals who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 can be isolated as they wait for their symptoms to dissipate.
- Additionally, it will house those who need further have been discharged after being treated for COVID-19 at local healthcare facilities.

Contact information for the **Evansville Independent Self-Isolation Center**.

The referral phone number/email:

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**BRIEF: At this time, UCS guests - new and current - who have COVID-19 related symptoms and have been tested, are awaiting test results, who tested positive, who have or have not been admitted/discharged from a hospital due to a positive COVID-19 diagnosis will not be allowed to return to/enter our programs or property.**

**Why?** Because isolation at UCS is not possible. UCS cannot set up separate, well-ventilated triage areas, place patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 in private rooms with doors closed and private bathrooms as recommended by the CDC.

**Why?** Because quarantine at UCS is not possible. UCS is a low barrier shelter serving 200+ people a day, with few restrictions in order to allow access by vulnerable populations in crisis. We do not have the capacity to restrict movement, enforce self-quarantine, nor is it in line with our program protocols or mission to do so.

**When can a guest return to/enter UCS property/programs?**

### **COVID-19 Guidelines and Timeframes**

1. If someone has been tested and is awaiting results or tested positive we will NOT take them.
2. If the person been tested and gets a negative result then we WILL take them (back). Current guests awaiting results will not lose their beds assuming the test results will be back within 72 hours. *\*Unsure how long it is taking.* We will NOT hold the bed indefinitely. After 5 days, it will be available for use.

3. If the person has tested positive, then in 21 days from that positive diagnosis they will be eligible to return AS LONG AS they have been tested again AND the result is negative AND are they symptom-free.

**PROTOCOL C19**  
**Medical Respite Program (HMRP)**

I. [NEW REFERRALS]

- New referrals **who have been tested** for COVID-19 but not yet received results will not be permitted in the shelter/respice program.
- New referrals **who have tested positive** for COVID-19 will not be permitted in the shelter/respice program.
- Temperatures will be taken twice a day for HMRP as a default given their more vulnerable status.

II. [CURRENT GUESTS]

**At the start of shift, between 8:00 am and 9:00 am, will**

- Take the forehead temperature of HMRP guests
  - Record results in the “TEMP 1” column of the HMRP Sign-in Sheet
- Observe behavior for symptoms signs of fever, coughing, shortness of breath
  - If symptoms are present,
    - See: 3. [QUESTIONS] (Page 1)
    - See: 4. [RESPONSE] (Page 2)
    - See: 5. [CONSEQUENCES] (Page 2)

**At the close of shift, between 5:00 pm and 6:00 pm, will**

- Take the forehead temperature of HMRP guests
  - Record results in the “TEMP 2” column of the HMRP Sign-In Sheet
- Observe behavior for symptoms signs of fever, coughing, shortness of breath
  - If symptoms are present, go to
    - See: 3. [QUESTIONS] (Page 1)
    - See: 4. [RESPONSE] (Page 2)
    - See: 5. [CONSEQUENCES] (Page 2)

III. [RESRICTIONS]

- The 72 hours (3 days) movement restriction, will be expanded to 120 hours (5 days) for guests with upper respiratory issues or any immune-compromised condition.
- HMRP guests will be limited to leaving UCS property to **2 hours or less** unless with or approved by the HMRP case manager. Care staff will confirm FIRST with HMRP Case Manager before allowing otherwise.

#### IV. [ISOLATION and/or QUARANTINE]

- **BRIEF:** At this time, UCS guests - new and current - who have COVID-19 related symptoms and have been tested, are awaiting test results, who tested positive, who have or have not been admitted/discharged from a hospital due to a positive COVID-19 diagnosis will not be allowed to return to/enter our programs or property.
- See full details above in Section 6.

### **PROTOCOL C19** **Day Shelter (DS)**

Due to the flow in and out of the Day Shelter, maintaining rigid protocols and data recording is unlikely given current staff capacity; however, DS staff will monitor guests' behavior for symptoms.

#### V. [OBSERVABLE BEHAVIOR]

**As symptoms (fever, coughing, labored breathing) are observed and/or if a guest requests attention related to these issues, DS staff will:**

- Take the forehead temperature of the DS guest (Temperatures do not need to be recorded), and
- Conduct a screening survey for that guest applying the following appropriately.
  - See: 3. [QUESTIONS] (Page 1)
  - See: 4. [RESPONSE] (Page 2)
  - See: 5. [CONSEQUENCES] (Page 2)

#### VI. [ISOLATION and/or QUARANTINE]

- **BRIEF:** At this time, UCS guests - new and current - who have COVID-19 related symptoms and have been tested, are awaiting test results, who tested positive, who have or have not been admitted/discharged from a hospital due to a positive COVID-19 diagnosis will not be allowed to return to/enter our programs or property.
- See full details above in Section 6.