

# FAQ



## Frequently Asked Questions: COVID-19

### Are people experiencing homelessness at special risk?

Persons experiencing homelessness may be at increased risk for infection for two primary reasons:

- People who are homeless are more susceptible to contracting the disease caused by the virus because of the cramped quarters in shelters and lack of access to basic hygiene resources such as sinks and bathrooms.
- Once infected chronically homeless individuals are more likely to get much sicker or die because of underlying medical conditions and a lack of reliable health care.

### What is Homeward Alliance doing to protect the people we serve and our volunteers and staff?

- Homeward Alliance is participating in community-wide planning alongside dozens of service providers, facilitated by the Larimer County Health Department. This includes both prevention and emergency response.
- We have expanded everyday prevention efforts at the Murphy Center, including stronger disinfectants and additional cleaning.
- Prevention supplies such as alcohol-based hand sanitizers and masks are available building-wide.
- Guests of the Murphy Center who are experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness are required to wear a mask and will be directed to medical services. Staff and volunteers who are ill are asked to stay home.
- We are identifying and monitoring guests at high risk of complications.
- Plans are being developed to manage higher service usage and increased staff and volunteer absences.
- We will continue to follow the guidance of the Health Department as the situation evolves.

### How can I help?

As participants in a "whole community" approach to emergency planning and management, we recognize that the health of people experiencing homelessness is inextricably intertwined with the health of the entire community. We are committed to doing our part to keep essential services operating and providing prevention supports among our community's most vulnerable members.

- If you are outside a High Risk Group, consider volunteering to temporarily replace people who can not.
- Donate to support services and increased supply needs. Visit [www.homewardalliance.org/how-to-help/](http://www.homewardalliance.org/how-to-help/)
- Email [Pam@HomewardAlliance.org](mailto:Pam@HomewardAlliance.org) for more information.