

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?

- Day Shelter and Evening Shelter has been moved to the Northside Aztlan Community Center on a temporary basis, thanks to the generosity of the City of Fort Collins. This space provides sufficient space for social distancing, temporary isolation of symptomatic individuals and others benefits.
- We are participating in community-wide planning alongside dozens of service providers, facilitated by the Larimer County Health Department. We are advocating for resources to provide respite care for recovering individuals, self-quarantine space for infected individuals and other emergency services.
- We have expanded everyday prevention efforts at the Murphy Center, including heightened disinfectant procedures, limiting non-essential services and visitors, and moving some staff off-site. Guests can access the Murphy Center only for locker and mail services between the hours of 12:00 pm - 5 pm.
- Steps to heighten awareness of guest health symptoms are in place, including monitoring people for signs of infection and protocol for isolating symptomatic guests.
- Community members making donations are asked to not enter the building. Donations can be made by emailing Brennan@HomewardAlliance.org or calling (970) 829-1151.

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. Visit www.HomewardAlliance.org and click on "Volunteer."
- Donate to support services and increased supply needs. Visit www.homewardalliance.org/how-to-help/
- Email Pam@HomewardAlliance.org for more information.