

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?

- 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 additional day services space, respite care, 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.
- Steps to heighten awareness of guest health symptoms are in place, including monitoring people for signs of infection and protocol for isolating symptomatic guests.
- Extensive education efforts are underway to help our guests protect themselves from exposure.
- Plans are in place 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.
- 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.