

## Respiratory Disease Infection Control Guidance for Shelter Providers

### Maricopa County

*Last Updated: March 9, 2023*

Currently, there is no County-facilitated medical isolation space for shelters to refer clients when they test positive for a respiratory disease. This guidance document briefly summarizes all the necessary information shelter providers may need for implementing isolation measures in their facilities.

#### **What does this mean for shelter programs?**

Shelters are responsible for isolation of clients who are symptomatic and/or who test positive for a viral respiratory infection.

#### **What does isolation look like for shelters based on guidance from Public Health Department?**

##### Isolation Space

The creation of isolation space may vary based on the space capacity of each agency. The more separation and barriers created, the lower the risk of transmission. Temporary walls or other barriers, such as curtains, can be used to increase the level of separation.

- *Ideal implementation:* An isolation space is a designated space separated by walls or other barrier to help keep clients who are symptomatic and/or who test positive for a viral respiratory disease away from the rest of the population. Since not all viral respiratory infections have rapid testing options like COVID-19, all individuals in an isolation space should continue to mask to reduce risk of spreading their infections to others isolated in the same space. Within this isolation space, clients should be kept at a 6-foot distance from each other.
- *Minimal implementation:* Symptomatic clients or clients who test positive for a viral respiratory disease should wear masks and be kept at least 6 feet away from the general population.

##### Isolation Period

COVID-19 isolation guidance is still distinct from other viral respiratory infections. If the infection is known to be COVID-19, the duration of isolation is determined by [CDC isolation guidance](#).

- *Implementation:* In general, symptomatic clients should be isolated and wear a mask until their symptoms are improving and they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicines like Tylenol or ibuprofen. Clients who test positive for COVID-19 (with or without symptoms) should wear a mask and should be isolated for the recommended isolation period, which is based on the date their symptoms started and/or date of their positive COVID-19 test result and is typically 10 days.
- Clients do not need a negative test before returning to the general population.

### Bathrooms

- *Ideal implementation:* Clients who are isolated will have access to a separate bathroom from the general population.
- *Minimal implementation:* If separate bathrooms are not an option, clients who are isolating should continue to mask when sharing bathrooms with the general population.

### Meals

- *Ideal implementation:* Staff bring meals to the clients in the isolation space.
- *Minimal implementation:* If staff are not able to deliver meals directly, clients who are isolating should continue to mask when getting their meals from the standard location and then return to the isolation area.

### Staff engaging with clients in isolation

- *Implementation:* Staff should wear a mask when engaging in-person with clients who are isolating. Staff can improve their protection by wearing a respirator (N-95 or KN-95), gloves and a gown (Some of these items can be ordered for free using the link in the section below).
- Do you need more PPE or other supplies? [Request Resources | Maricopa County, AZ](#)

### **Do you want more guidance or support?**

Maricopa County's Homeless Services Team can be reached by calling 602-506-6767 (wait for the menu and press Option 5). You may also email us at [ShelterHealth@Maricopa.gov](mailto:ShelterHealth@Maricopa.gov). We provide information on the following:

- Transportation and other logistical needs, including planning checklists
- Medical or guidance-related inquiries
- COVID- and non-COVID inquiries, case reporting, and guidance on outbreaks of any concern
- Ventilation

### **Do you want to report an outbreak concern?**

If you are concerned that there may be an outbreak in your facility, please use the [Shelter Reporting Form](#) to report **suspected and confirmed COVID-19 outbreaks and associated COVID-19 cases** among clients, residents, or staff to the Maricopa County Department of Public Health.

Someone from the Maricopa County Public Health team will follow up within 1 business day with your designated point-of-contact to provide any further recommendations for your facility.