



CITY OF SANTA CRUZ COVID-19 HOMELESS RESOURCES
Frequently Asked Questions
Updated April 17, 2020

How is the City protecting persons experiencing homelessness (PEH) from contracting COVID-19?

The City is working closely with the County, which is the lead agency on the community's responses to the coronavirus pandemic. The County has put into place new hygiene facilities; Homeless Outreach and Service Sites (HOSS), which are walk-up sites for health assessment, resources and educational info; increased shelter opportunities; isolation and quarantine (IQ) shelter for PEH who have been exposed to or diagnosed with coronavirus.

What does the City plan to do if a PEH is diagnosed with, or has been exposed to, coronavirus?

The County has secured medically supported hotels rooms for PEH who are sick with or being isolated or quarantined from coronavirus.

Isn't the City required to provide hotel rooms for all PEH during this time?

No. Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines recommend shelter for PEH who are vulnerable to COVID -19 and/or being isolated or quarantined from exposure. The County has secured a number of hotel rooms for these purposes.

What about Governor Newsom's "Room Key" initiative – doesn't it mandate that all PEH be given hotel rooms?

No. In tandem with the CDC guidelines, the Governor's initiative aims to protect public health by isolating the most medically vulnerable PEH, thinning out the shelter population for social distancing, slowing the rate of spread of COVID-19 and, in turn, flattening the curve. It does not mandate that hotel rooms be provided for all PEH.

How are PEH accessing food during the County's Shelter In Place Order (SIP)?

The County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is setting up a network of food providers to supply three meals a day at the alternative care sites (ACS), expanded shelter (Vets Halls), and quarantine/isolation shelter as the first phase of PEH food distribution. The program will scale-up in two additional phases; one to provide meals at current shelters, and the next for the HOSS programs and those living unsheltered in encampments.