

How are local hotels being used for shelter during the crisis?

Local hotel rooms are being utilized to support the County's response to the COVID-19 crisis in our community. Rooms are being used to shelter homeless persons in need of medical care, isolation and quarantine. There may be a future need for rooms to shelter healthcare workers or first responders in need of quarantine; the County has not expanded its focus to these additional uses yet. The County is in the process of developing criteria for selecting hotels to be part of the COVID-19 sheltering program. Hotels that are interested in being considered for sheltering purposes for the homeless can contact Kimberly Finely at Kimberly.Finely@santacruzcounty.us. In addition, the governor released information on a [statewide program to utilize hotel rooms](#) for shelter. [Resources for hoteliers during the coronavirus crisis](#) can be found on the California Hotel and Lodging Association website.

Is it true that homeless shelters aren't providing appropriate space for PEH to practice social distancing, encouraging an outbreak of coronavirus in local shelters?

No. New shelter space and capacity is being added weekly to ensure that PEH who choose shelter have appropriate space to practice social distancing. In Santa Cruz that includes the recently opened Vets Hall and expanded space at the Armory. In addition, the County has located several sites in Santa Cruz where PEH can receive health assessments and rapid shelter referrals.

What is the City/County doing about new camps that are popping up?

The City and County are developing new Homeless Outreach and Service Sites Plus (HOSS+) to ensure that individuals in highly congested encampments are provided with an opportunity to create additional social distancing and ultimately a pathway into the new COVID-19 shelter system. Those new HOSS+ sites are currently under development and are hoped to be deployed by April 30, 2020.

Is the City towing/what is the City doing about PEH living in cars?

Police are citing vehicles, and towing only for unusual circumstances or if an officer deems a vehicle a hazard or nuisance. If PEH are using vehicles to shelter-in-place CDC guidelines discourage dispersing them.