



CITY COVID-19 RELATED HOMELESSNESS UPDATE
April 17, 2020

The City has joined a County-led task force to address the particular needs of people experiencing homelessness (PEH) during the coronavirus pandemic. The County COVID-19 website provides [information on the task force](#) as well as on [resources available to PEH](#) during this time. Below you will find an update on completed tasks and tasks underway.

As of 4/17 no PEH have tested positive for COVID-19 in the Santa Cruz community.

SHELTER

- A shelter for medical isolation and quarantine (IQ) became operational April 6. There are 28 rooms, some with the possibility of double occupancy. Medically vulnerable individuals are using approximately one-third of rooms currently.
- The National Guard provided-tent at the Armory has been expanded to allow further disbursement of sheltered individuals and in-place sheltering. The tent is fully self-contained with flooring and electricity and is now approximately 5,500sf. The County continues to develop the operational and staffing plans for the additional shelter.
- The Veterans Administration Hall on Front Street opened last week, taking in 30 PEH who had been staying at the Laurel Street Shelter. This expanded shelter enabled better social distancing at the Laurel Street shelter. The Vets Hall shelter can support 50 at full capacity.
- New homeless outreach service sites (HOSS) that provide resources for health assessments, food, phone charging and other services was launched on the County's Emeline campus.
- Mapping continues this week to try to identify potential areas of need for homeless outreach field teams.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

- Existing shelters continue to provide meals.
- Several hundred grab-and-go meals were distributed this week by County disaster workers.
- Homelessness Response Manager Brooke Newman has taken over food coordination within City limits. under a two-week City permit for congregate meal service twice a day, seven days a week. It's expected that meal delivery to the unsheltered population will transition to a distributed model and programs like Food Not Bombs will be provided an opportunity to serve take away food at HOSS throughout the City.