

# Shelter/Congregate living best practices

---

Shelter and congregate living settings can use these suggestions and examples to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. These have been adapted from Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance.

## Create and follow a check-in system.

If possible, create and follow a check-in system for both staff and residents:

1. Do a daily temperature check.
2. Ask about symptoms such as cough, shortness of breath, etc.
3. If an individual shows any symptoms or has a fever:
  - a. If it's a resident, give them a facemask. Make sure they are housed separately from other residents.
  - b. If it's a staff member, they should go home and follow the guidance on when to return to work.

## Sleeping arrangements

It is important to maintain social distancing in sleeping quarters. Separating those that might be symptomatic is also important. Here are some suggestions on how that can be accomplished:

- Increase spacing between beds so that they are at least three feet apart (six feet if possible).
- Arrange beds so that individuals are sleeping head-to-toe or toe-to-toe. If that is not possible, use physical barriers to create barriers between beds. Curtains and foot lockers could be used as barriers.
- If possible, create a separate area where residents with symptoms can be housed so that they are not in contact with other residents.
- Avoid housing residents at high-risk (older or with underlying conditions) in the same area as people with symptoms.

## Mealtimes

- If you provide meals, make sure individuals can wash their hands before eating. Have soap and water available (preferred) or hand sanitizer. The hand sanitizer should contain at least 60% alcohol.
- Stagger mealtimes to reduce crowding in shared eating facilities.
- Stagger the schedule for use of common/shared kitchens. Make sure cleaning supplies are available for cleaning between use.

## Bathrooms and bathing

- Make sure bathrooms and other sinks are always stocked with soap and have materials for drying hands.
- Create a staggered bathing schedule to reduce the number of people using the facilities at the same time.
- Make sure facilities are cleaned thoroughly and often.

## Other areas

- Have hand sanitizer available at key points in the facility. Some suggested places are registration desks, entrances/exits, and common rooms.
- If staff are handling resident's belongings, they should use disposable gloves. They should then dispose of the gloves properly and wash their hands.
- Have as few face-to-face interactions between staff and residents as possible. Some ideas to do this could be to install plexiglass at registration desks and use bulletin boards for information.

For more information about the City's response to COVID-19, visit [minneapolismn.gov/coronavirus](https://minneapolismn.gov/coronavirus). This webpage is updated frequently with new information. For questions on these recommendations, please email [COVID19@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:COVID19@minneapolismn.gov) or call 612-673-2301.