



## OFFICE OF HOMELESS SERVICES

### FY21 COVID-19 TESTING EXPANSION in CONGREGATE SITES

For implementation July 1, 2020

The Office of Homeless Services (OHS) supports the expansion of COVID-19 testing for asymptomatic individuals and family heads of households when they come to shelter.

#### Guiding Principles:

1. Barriers to entering shelter should be as few as possible.
2. We value participant choice. Testing cannot be mandated for people.
3. People cannot be denied shelter, even if they do not want to be tested.

#### Screening:

OHS requires system wide screening for COVID-19 symptoms, including a temperature check, at intake sites and at program entry, and continuous monitoring for symptoms.

#### Site Wide Testing:

1. Site Wide Testing may occur in close collaboration with Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) for sites that meet PDPH's criteria for expanded testing, which requires that a site have an outbreak (one positive staff or participant case). (See [PDPH Testing Strategies in Congregate Settings](#))
2. Encouraged to partner with community testing sites, such as FQHCs or City Health Centers (<https://www.phila.gov/covid-testing-sites/#/>). If a shelter provider wants to do this, the following are required:
  - a. Provider must be willing to continue to provide shelter for any individual who is not willing to be tested.
  - b. Provider must be willing to consider isolating individuals onsite during the time their test results are pending. OHS understands that this is not possible at all congregate settings.
  - c. Provider must notify PDPH (through the provider hotline or online link) in advance of scheduling expanded testing so they are aware and can be in support of people who test positive and may need to be supported in the Quarantine and Isolation Site/s.
  - d. Provider must work with OHS to develop a plan for any individual who is tested but cannot be accommodated in the Q+I site due to the level of medical or behavioral health needs.
  - e. Providers must notify OHS ([frederick.gigliotti@phila.gov](mailto:frederick.gigliotti@phila.gov) and [bruce.k.johnson@phila.gov](mailto:bruce.k.johnson@phila.gov)) of plans and arrangements with testing partners.

The above is subject to change as we work with PDPH and providers to assess impact through regular meetings and conversations, learn more about the coronavirus, and as science and technology related to COVID-19 continue to evolve.