

HOME  **GOOD**
Santa Barbara County



Northern Santa Barbara
County United Way

COVID-19 and People Experiencing Homelessness: Partnerships And Outreach

HOME FOR GOOD
Santa Barbara County



Northern Santa Barbara
County United Way

Community partners should continue services that protect people experiencing homelessness.

- Homeless services
- Healthcare
- Behavioral health services
- Food pantries
- Coordinated Entry System



Northern Santa Barbara
County United Way



PARTNERSHIPS

- Homeless outreach teams will often be the front lines.
- Outreach workers need to protect themselves, the client and provide information.
- Identify where people can be isolated and receive care.

PARTNERSHIPS: OUTREACH



Northern Santa Barbara
County United Way

- Healthcare facilities should be involved in planning for safely discharging COVID-19 patients to a designated location if they do not require hospitalization but lack housing.



PARTNERSHIPS: HEALTHCARE

HOME FOR GOOD
Santa Barbara County



Northern Santa Barbara
County United Way

- Law enforcement should be involved in plans related to protecting people experiencing homelessness from COVID-19.



PARTNERSHIPS: LAW ENFORCEMENT

HOME FOR GOOD
Santa Barbara County



Northern Santa Barbara
County United Way

- People experiencing homelessness are an important resource.
- Develop advisory boards with representation from people experiencing homelessness to be able to access current information.



**PARTNERSHIPS:
PEOPLE EXPERIENCING
HOMELESSNESS**

- Do not clear encampments during community spread of COVID-19.
- Encourage people staying in encampments to set up tents 12 ft apart.
- Provide soap and hygiene products.
- Provide access handwashing facilities.

PREVENTION MEASURES: ENCAMPMENTS

- Provide straightforward, current facts.
- Influential community members can help communicate with clients.
- Post signs in strategic locations.
- Provide info on hand washing, hygiene, and cough etiquette.
- Request up-to-date contact information from each client.

PREVENTION MEASURES: COMMUNICATION

- Make encounters meaningful.
- Limit outreach to health and safety efforts.
- Reduce or suspend rapport building outreach.
- Ensure we're here for support, not to further socially isolate.
- Update and track whereabouts of encampments and vulnerable individuals.



Northern Santa Barbara
County United Way

OUTREACH: BEST PRACTICES

- Practice Physical Distancing 6ft.
 - (The term "Social Distancing" may cause a neagtive reaction since many already feel distant from society.)
- Wash hands and wear gloves.
- Masks are for people showing symptoms.
- Review and practice proper use of gloves and masks.



Northern Santa Barbara
County United Way



**OUTREACH:
HEALTH AND
SAFETY**

- Offer masks to people showing symptoms.
 - If there are no mask use physical distance, 6ft., for safety.
- Talk to them about seeking medical attention.
 - Do not call 911 or go to the ED.
 - Encourage them to contact their primary care provider if they have one.
 - Provide info for available medical services.
 - Problem solve transportation issues getting medical attention.



OUTREACH: HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Practice Harm Reduction:
 - Discuss isolating within the encampment.
 - 14 day isolation is recommended if there has been possible exposure.
 - Provide hygiene supplies.
 - Make sure they or someone they know has a phone.



OUTREACH: HARM REDUCTION

CDC: Interim Guidance for Responding to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) among People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/unsheltered-homelessness.html?fbclid=IwAR0E3CmQpobPpCG0Q_1FO9p5kCV4ma6r3FidJqml01EDZwNW0kPe-mtq6U

STREET MEDICINE PRACTICE during the COVID19 PANDEMIC

<https://stmi.memberclicks.net/assets/docs/COVid19%20SM%20Guidance%203-20-20.pdf>

References And Resources

HOME FOR GOOD
Santa Barbara County



Northern Santa Barbara
County United Way