

5/18/2020

Seattle – weekly COVID-19 webinar follow-ups

Q: How will contact tracing address the homeless population?

A: Public Health Seattle King County has specialized teams that work with congregate housing facilities, homeless shelters and longer care facilities that are specially equipped to carry out contact tracing and support. Homeless Health Field Assessment, Support and Technical Assistance (FAST) teams provide onsite assessment, support and technical assistance to homeless and supportive housing programs responding to COVID-19, including sanitation and infection control guidelines, supply needs and procedures for handling suspected cases. You can read more about how we are supporting residents experiencing homelessness [here](#).

Governor Inslee also has a robust contact tracing plan being developed and implanted. The state has already trained over 1,300 people to carry out this work. You can read more about the plan [here](#).

Q: After the COVID-19 health crisis is done will the isolation, quarantine and recovery sites be used as homeless shelters?

A: Once the state of emergency is lifted, we will have robust community conversations to determine what the best use of these sites will be moving forward. Hotels that are currently acting as shelter deintensification sites via lease agreements with the County will likely return to their regular operations. The Interbay site is unique in that there has been a outreach and community engagement process that predates the public health crisis. The community engagement process for Interbay resulted in a plan for that site to host a modular homeless shelter in partnership with Catholic Community Services.

Q: How can we access 8-hour course on mental health?

A: If you or a colleague have interest in this training, or would like to learn more, please contact Maureen Horgan at maureen.horgan@kingcounty.gov

Q: Is there a comprehensive county wide map for testing?

A: We are working to determine if such a map exists and will follow up when we have more information.