

Sheltering Safely: For Individuals

Sheltering in place and physical distancing remain the best ways to curb the spread of COVID-19. However, wildfire evacuations are forcing many to leave their homes and move into temporary shelters. Local health officials urge community residents and organizations to take steps to limit exposure to COVID-19 while sheltering wildfire evacuees. The following guidelines are for individuals in need of shelter.

- **To protect yourself in a congregate shelter:**
 - Stay at least 6 feet away from those you don't live with.
 - Wear facial coverings in public settings when around people who don't live in your household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.
 - Find a "buddy" in the facility to check on you, and make sure you are getting basic necessities such as food and household essentials.
- **If you're evacuated and considered at-risk for COVID-19:**
 - Keep up-to-date lists of medical conditions and medications, and ensure you have a sufficient supply of your prescription and over-the-counter medications.
 - Contact your health care provider about getting extra prescription medications to have on hand for a longer period of time, or consider using a mail-order medication option.
 - Be aware of serious symptoms if you have underlying medical conditions. Know who to ask for help and when to call 911.
- **If you get sick, have COVID-19 or suspect you do while in a congregate setting:**
 - You, along with any roommates and close contacts, need to self-isolate and limit the use of shared spaces as much as possible.
 - Wear a mask when it is necessary to be in shared spaces.
 - Avoid using public transportation, ride-sharing or taxis.
 - Notify the facility manager and contact your health care provider. If you don't have a provider, call the Joint Information Center at 707-441-5000.

Compiled from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's "Interim Guidance for General Population Disaster Shelters During the COVID-19 Pandemic."



Sheltering Safely: For Shelter Providers

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- **Ways to shelter fire evacuees as safely as possible:**
 - Require the use of facial coverings in shared spaces.
 - Encourage use of outdoor space as much as weather and conditions allow, except for sleep.
 - Since it is not possible to use facial coverings while eating, having meals outdoors and distanced is the safest option as weather and conditions allow.
 - COVID-19 prevention supplies should be provided in common areas, such as soap, alcohol-based hand sanitizers that contain at least 60 percent alcohol, tissues, trash baskets. If possible, provide facial coverings that are regularly washed or discarded after each use.
 - Non-essential volunteers and visitors in shared areas should be limited or avoided.
 - Avoid entering residents' rooms or living quarters unless it is absolutely necessary.
 - Staff should use virtual communications and check-ins (phone or video chat) as appropriate.
- **How to limit transmission in shared areas such as kitchens, dining rooms, laundry rooms and bathrooms:**
 - Restrict the number of people in these spaces at one time to maintain six feet of distance at all times.
 - Do not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups or eating utensils. Non-disposable food service items should be handled with gloves and washed with dish soap and hot water or in a dishwasher.
 - Post guidelines for doing laundry such as washing instructions and handling of dirty laundry.
 - Sinks are a possible source of infection. Avoid placing toothbrushes or other hygiene items directly on counter surfaces. Totes can be used for personal items so they do not touch the bathroom countertop.
 - Frequent cleaning of all commonly used surfaces can help prevent spread of COVID-19 and other infections.
- **What to do if someone you're housing shows symptoms of COVID-19:**
 - Individuals who are ill should seek medical evaluation and may need COVID-19 testing.
 - People who are sick, their roommates and those who have a higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 should eat or be provided meals in their room if possible.

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