

Assessing Local COVID-19 Risks

To aid decision making and planning for a
safe and successful Point-in-Time Count

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Burden of COVID-19 in the homeless- serving sector of care

- Current outbreaks (if any) in shelters
- Organizational capacity to carry out different count elements
- Numbers of clients (and COVID positive clients) at isolation sites
- Number of clients in new decanted sites
- Staffing levels and burnout among front-line workers
- Whether shelters are at or over new capacity limits
- Availability of PPE for front-line workers
- Capacity of shelters to cohort clients
- Washroom-to-client ratio

Burden of COVID-19 on local health systems

- Number of COVID patients in local hospitals
- Number of COVID patients in local ICUs
- Whether testing capacity is meeting demand
- Whether the health authority is able to contact trace new cases

Risk of COVID-19 transmission

- Ability to apply recommended safety measures
- Number of active cases in your community
- COVID-19 test positivity rates
- Direction in trend of new cases

Enhanced safety measures and considerations

To aid planning for a safe Point-in-Time Count

Enhanced safety measures and considerations

- Shift to virtual training for enumerators and surveyors
- Administer COVID symptom checklist before allowing staff or volunteers to participate in the count
- Provide masks for all participants (including survey respondents)
- Provide access to hand sanitizer and/or hand washing stations
- Reduce the size of enumeration teams
- Instruct enumerators/surveyors to maintain social distancing throughout the duration of the Count
- Administer COVID symptom checklist for all potential survey respondents, and offering resources to connect individuals with a COVID test

COVID Symptom Checklist

- An important tool in conducting a safe count during the COVID pandemic
- Anyone participating in the Count as a surveyor/enumerator, or in any role with personal interaction needs to be complete the checklist
- Unsheltered count: Symptom checklist should be administered after the screening questions, but before the survey

COVID Symptom Checklist script

“Before continuing with the Point-in-Time count survey, can we go through a COVID-19 symptom checklist? Your responses to these questions will not be recorded. They are intended to help protect both your safety and ours. I/We have already been screened tonight.

- Yes (ask the COVID-19 questions)
- No (The surveyor may continue the survey if they feel comfortable, but have the right not to continue if they feel that their safety is at risk)

COVID Symptom Checklist

COVID-19 symptom checklist:

- Have you had contact with anyone with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
 - Yes
 - No
- Do you suspect you may have COVID-19 based on the following symptoms? · New or worsening cough · New or worsening shortness of breath or difficulty breathing · New or worsening feeling of fever or chills · New or worsening fatigue or weakness · New loss of smell or taste · New or worsening headache · New or worsening abdominal pain · Diarrhea, Vomiting, or Feeling very unwell
 - Yes
 - No
- IF YES TO QUESTION 2: Would you like to arrange for a COVID-19 test?
 - Yes (provide information/means to book a COVID-19 test)
 - No

Thank you for your responses.”

Again, the surveyor may continue the survey if they feel comfortable, but should have the right not to continue if they feel that their safety is at risk.

Questions?

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