Screening Individuals at General Population Shelters in Texas during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Screen all people prior to entry into the shelter for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 using the DSHS screening tool.

Follow DSHS Screening Tool instructions to triage shelter clients into these groups.

Any shelter client with warning signs requires immediate EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE.

Direct any shelter client with signs, symptoms, or positive COVID-19 test results to the ISOLATION AREA.

Direct any shelter client who reports that they had recent close contact with a person with COVID-19 or any client already under quarantine to the QUARANTINE AREA.

Direct all other shelter clients to the GENERAL POPULATION area.

COVID-19 prevention measures include:
- Social distancing (staying 6 ft away from others not in same household or group)
- Wearing a face mask/cloth face covering*
- Frequent hand washing
- Using proper respiratory etiquette

Call 9-1-1 if a shelter client is showing any of the warning signs below. If there is suspicion of COVID-19, tell the operator this is a suspected case of COVID-19:
- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake, and/or
- Bluish lips or face

Let the sick shelter client know:
- They should notify shelter staff immediately if their symptoms worsen.
- They should not leave the isolation area except to use the restroom.
- They should practice COVID-19 prevention measures.

Let the shelter client with an exposure know:
- They should monitor themselves twice daily for fever and symptoms.
- They should notify shelter staff immediately if they develop a fever or symptoms.
- They should practice COVID-19 prevention measures.

Let the well shelter client know:
- They should notify shelter staff immediately if they develop a fever or symptoms.
- They should practice COVID-19 prevention measures.

*Masks or cloth face coverings should not be placed on babies or children younger than 2 years of age or anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the covering without assistance.