

# Initial S/THA Quarantine Housing and Planning Assessment Summary

## COVID-19 Response

February 13, 2020

This document summarizes options for housing, transportation and wrap-around services that may be used by state and territorial health agencies (S/THAs) when quarantining individuals during the 2019 novel coronavirus response. The summary was compiled by ASTHO staff for situational awareness purposes at a specific point in time using information captured through telephonic interviews with the Directors of Public Health Preparedness of the F-11 states during the week of February 10th. Updates to this document will be made periodically as new information is shared.

### Housing

When possible, S/THAs interviewed recommend utilizing hotel or motel space. Hotels, or similar institutions, typically provide furnished living spaces with the necessary wrap-around services for transient living. S/THAs should explore contractual or other agreements with hotels or similar institutions to secure housing for future quarantine needs. The following peer guidance was shared for consideration when using hotels for quarantine housing needs:

- Leverage established relationships to facilitate the housing procurement process.
- Work with health agency legal team(s) to compose confidentiality and non-disclosure language to reassure privacy of quarantine activities at their institution.
- Secure the entire hotel floor or wing of rooms to ensure privacy of quarantine activities.
- House families in connecting or adjacent rooms, or on the same floor(s).
- Staff the site with medical personnel (24/7); physician, clinical staff and mental health worker.
- If necessary, request the assistance of federal partners to approach hotels or similar institutions for use (e.g. jurisdictions report that federally initiated requests are better received).
- Review PHEP funding guidelines and consult Project Officers about the possibility of using federal relevant cooperative agreement funds in contracting with hotels or similar institution to secure housing for future quarantine needs.

If S/THAs are unable to secure hotel or motel space to quarantine individuals, other housing options such as rental spaces, health facilities, or government facilities or property should be explored. Some jurisdictions have used vacant hospital spaces, while others have rented space through services such as Airbnb. Decision factors to consider when exploring these options include:

- Provides a furnished, comfortable living space with basic wrap-around services.
- Protects and maintains the privacy necessary for quarantine activities.
- Keeps families together or in reasonable close proximity.

### Transportation Services

Transportation needs are determined by quarantine locations. Jurisdictions report fulfilling transportation needs by way of shuttles and EMS vehicles.

- Arrange transportation services for travelers from the airport to the quarantine location.
- Plan for transportation services if clinical testing will be conducted off site.

The following considerations apply when quarantined individuals are housed in a singular facility.

- Secure on-site transportation for EMS needs, 24/7 transport services.
- Supply PPE for transportation personnel. See [CDC guidance](#) for additional information.

### **Wrap-Around Services**

Quarantined individuals require wrap-around services to maintain comfort and fulfill daily living needs.

- If possible, set up a master or corporate account with a food-delivery service. This allows for the creation of sub-accounts and supports individual dietary needs. These systems also provide visibility to monitor expenditures.
- Explore local restaurants or food vendors to provide regular or supplemental meal options.
- Select hotels or similar institutions that provide all-inclusive wrap-around services.

### **Other Considerations**

- Review budgets and funding requirements to determine cost-effective options for quarantining.
- Leverage established relationships with hotels, transportation services, hospitals, local vendors and other services now in preparation for future needs.
- Communicate the nature of the quarantine activity to vendors, minimizing misinformation and assuring privacy.
- Maintain frequent and clear communication with federal partners to define expectations of federal, state/territorial and local agencies.
- Review processes for quarantining with federal and local agencies to avoid misunderstandings and unaligned protocols.
- Be flexible due to the nature of demands, rapid progress and changes that may occur.
- CDC's Interim Guidance for Implementing Home Care of People Not Requiring Hospitalization for 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is [available here](#). (Last updated, Feb 12, 2020)

### **Closing Thought**

Recognize that fear and resulting stigma will likely cause challenges in securing housing, transportation and wrap-around services. Compose messaging and prepare education materials in advance of outreach and consider using a trusted spokesperson to initiate requests to local vendors.