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**PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL**

December 4, 2020

To all county homeless shelter staff,

COVID-19 case rates are rising in Orange County and homeless shelter populations are at particular risk of outbreaks. The Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA) recommends that county shelters and their residents take measures to protect against the introduction of COVID-19 into shelters. These measures include:

- **OCHCA strongly recommends that shelter residents travel offsite only for paid employment, to seek medical care due to acute illness or scheduled appointment, or for some other essential reason.**
 - Residents who leave the shelter should return to the shelter immediately after conclusion of work or medical appointments.
 - Any residents who work offsite should have daily symptom checks. Anyone who develops COVID-19 symptoms should be immediately isolated off site and tested.
 - Any residents or staff who develop COVID-19 symptoms should be isolated immediately. While awaiting results, residents should be isolated off site and staff should isolate at home.

- **When COVID-19 case(s) are identified in a shelter's residents or staff, it is vital that all residents and staff be screened by laboratory testing promptly in order to identify any additional cases.**
 - If an outbreak is identified, this testing may need to be repeated in coordination with OCHCA weekly until the facility is cleared.
 - Residents who refuse to be tested as part of this facility screening should be housed offsite in quarantine until 14 days after their last potential COVID-19 exposure.

Please feel free to contact the OCHCA COVID-19 Shelter Outbreak Response Team at 714-567-6246 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Matt Zahn, MD

Deputy Health Officer

Orange County Health Care Agency