2020 Hurricane Preparations Webinar

Overview: Preparing for the SAFE Delivery of Mass Care Services during a Pandemic

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Austin, Texas

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The American Red Cross provides services across the country. Texas is part of the Southwest and Rocky Mountain Division (seen in orange).

Texas is divided into three (3) Regions:
- North Texas,
- Central & South Texas
- The Gulf Coast
Our #1 Priority
Is the safety of our Workforce, Volunteers, Partners and Clients

- Keeping shelter residents and workforce safe in a shelter during COVID requires some adjustments to procedures.
- Recommendations follow Center of Disease Control (CDC) Guidance and best Public Health Practices.

Clara Barton, Founder

For over 138 years the Red Cross has cared about others
Sheltering Options

- **Non-Congregate Shelters** – provided to individuals and families as sheltering using hotels, motels, campsites, trailers, RVs, college dormitories, retreat camps, etc. Provides better separation of living space and privacy.

- **Congregate Shelters** – provided to individuals and families for group sheltering using community facilities such as community centers, gymnasiums, etc. and includes shelters of all sizes. It is preferable to open a higher number of low-occupancy shelters to accommodate appropriate social distancing.

Resource: Red Cross Shelter Guidelines: Description of Shelter Types pp. 85-86
**Congregate Shelters:**
*Strategies to minimize spread of COVID-19*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Screening and access control with shelter entry barriers</th>
<th>Increased sanitation activities</th>
<th>Social distancing</th>
<th>Isolation care area</th>
<th>Smaller than normal staff</th>
<th>Smaller client capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The following supplies augment standard material resources to ensure safety to shelter residents and workers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protection</th>
<th>Screening</th>
<th>Isolation Care</th>
<th>Cleaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N95 masks</td>
<td>Thermometers</td>
<td>Gowns</td>
<td>Hand sanitizers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Face masks</td>
<td>Goggles or Face Shields</td>
<td>Gloves</td>
<td>Hand soaps</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cleaning wipes (like Clorox wipes)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Resource: Red Cross Shelter Guidelines  COVID-19 Supplies and Kits: pp. 28-31
COVID-19 Non-Congregate Sheltering pp. 90-99
Screening & Shelter Flow

**Tornado/Flood/Fire**

Event caused need for emergency sheltering

Plan for less than 14 days

Align with Public Health guidance

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**Screening Process**

- Temperature and Questions
- Public Health Screeners

- Symptomatic
  - Residents who Develop Symptoms, Suspected or are Confirmed COVID +
  - Isolation Care Area
  - Barrier/Door

- No symptoms

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**Shelter Size** = 50 clients maximum

110 sq ft per client

Cots 6-ft apart (families stay together)

Everyone leaving shelter site is rescreened upon return

- Shelter Workers
  - 6-10 in-person workers
  - Shelterees may be part of workforce

- Pets are not allowed in dormitory

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**Resource:**

Red Cross Shelter Guidelines

COVID-19 Shelter Health Screening Area

pp. 93-94
Safe Feeding Guidance

• Provide Individually Packaged Meals

• Utilize local vendors to provide specialized meals to clients who require them based on dietary, cultural, or religious requirements

• Follow safe food handling guidelines

• Clean all surfaces with sanitizing spray, wipes or bleach solution every 2 hours during feeding times. Also before and after every meal

• Use the “set it down and step back” method when delivering face coverings, food or supplies after you ask which meal they need (standard, vegetarian, gluten free, etc.)

Resource: Red Cross Shelter Guidelines: Feeding pp. 73-77
Maintain Social Distancing when Loading Supplies and Traveling

**Loading a truck with supplies....**
- If the vehicle has a single ‘cab’, only the driver will travel in the truck
  - A chase car with the 2\textsuperscript{nd} worker will be utilized
- Be sure to wipe down all surfaces you would normally touch before entering
- Both workers will wear a mask, gloves and maintain social distancing
- Use the ‘set it down, step back’ methodology for loading and unloading
- Be sure to wipe down all of the surfaces inside the vehicle when you finish your trip

**When traveling inside of a car, a maximum of two (2) workers are allowed**
- Be sure to wipe down all surfaces you would normally touch before entering
- Both workers will wear a mask and maintain social distancing
- The passenger should sit in the back seat on the passenger side of the vehicle
- Be sure to wipe down all of the surfaces again when you finish your trip
Turn Compassion Into Action
Volunteers carry out 90% of the humanitarian work of the American Red Cross. During this hurricane and wildfire season, it is more important than ever to get involved sooner rather than later. We are actively searching for volunteers willing to respond to emergencies, both in-person and virtually. It is through the efforts of ordinary people that we can do extraordinary things. Please consider joining our sheltering team today!

Volunteers urgently needed for the following positions in your community:

- **Mass Care Sheltering Responder**
  - Help provide a safe, welcoming place for people fleeing natural disasters!

- **Mass Care Sheltering Supervisor**
  - Leads a team in creating a safe space for people to recover post-disaster.

- **Disaster Health Services Supervisor**
  - Leads a team to care for the health needs of sheltered clients. Special qualifications required.

- **Disaster Health Services Responder**
  - Helps provide care and attention to the health needs of clients. Special qualifications required.

Interested? Send a note to CSTR@redcross.org with which opportunity you want to get started with!
THANK YOU
For partners who do not have any shelter training or experience, we recommend 3 Red Cross classes available on YouTube:

   https://youtu.be/jwgBgG4s6Mo

   https://youtube.com/watch?v=pKpvIbBbYQc

3. COVID-19 Shelter Assignments – 14 min.  
   https://youtube.com/watch?v=lz3mLhj5HP4
Additional Resources

AMERICAN RED CROSS AND OTHER PUBLICALLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION
COVID-19 Sheltering Guidance is Publicly Available to Partners

Resource: http://nationalmasscarestrategy.org/
Websites available to everyone**

- National Mass Care Strategy Website:
  https://nationalmasscarestrategy.org/

- American Red Cross (Covid19 guidance – available to the public
  https://nationalmasscarestrategy.org/covid-19-sheltering-guidelines/

- Center for Disease Control Website:

** Copy and paste the website details into your browser