

# COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers

Friday May 29, 2020 9:00 AM

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## Meeting Recording:

Topic: COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers (April 8-June 30 invite)

Date: May 29, 2020 09:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/-cs2cejQ62pLeKPk4hvtWowPlabrX6a81icf-AFz3RAmltVtd6W6QcrNgx7\\_48](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/-cs2cejQ62pLeKPk4hvtWowPlabrX6a81icf-AFz3RAmltVtd6W6QcrNgx7_48)

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# Meeting Agenda

Austin/Travis County

COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers  
May 29<sup>th</sup> Agenda



City of Austin / Austin Public Health



Implementation Team Updates



Agency Updates



Wrap Up – Next Call: Wednesday, June 3rd @ 9:00am

## Meeting Notes:

COA – Laura Foss

<http://www.austintexas.gov/department/austins-homeless-strategy-covid-19-support>

- 3124 confirmed COVID-29 cases in Travis County; 1114 recovered; and 92 deaths
- Demographic information on cases available at <http://www.austintexas.gov/covid19>
  - At least 47 individuals experiencing homelessness have tested positive, including 26 that have recovered.
    - The count of cases among people experiencing homelessness is likely an undercount due to private labs and providers not necessarily recording each person's housing status when they test.
  - Austin Public Health launched an online enrollment form for free COVID-19 testing
    - Form will allow people to take self-assessment to determine eligibility and schedule a free test without a medical provider referral
    - <http://www.austintexas.gov/covid19>
      - Click “self-assessment” button to create an account and complete the questionnaire listing your symptoms
- Austin Public Health published a Color-Coded Chart
  - To help residents understand the stages of risk during pandemic, and
  - To provide recommendations on what people should do to stay safe
  - New Risk based guidelines

- 5 distinct stages of risk
      - 1=Lowest threat stage to
      - 5=Most serious threat stage
    - With recommended behaviors for each stage of risk
    - Access it here <http://www.austintexas.gov/page/covid-19-risk-based-guidelines>
  - Order from Austin/Travis County Health Authority stating **masks when outside the home or in public are recommended**
    - Physical distancing of at least 6 feet between individuals is still recommended
  - Quarantine and Alternate Facilities
    - Pro-Lodges 1-4 are operational
      - All ProLodges are secure and not open to the public
      - If any agency is interested in learning more about the Pro-lodge operations and services please contact Robert at [Robert.Kingham@austintexas.gov](mailto:Robert.Kingham@austintexas.gov)
    - If other programs have capacity to work with people staying at Pro-Lodge sites, please contact Vella Karmen, [vella.karmen@austintexas.gov](mailto:vella.karmen@austintexas.gov)
  - Eating Apart Together (EAT); Food access for people experiencing homelessness
    - Central Texas Food Bank utilizing City of Austin RAISE funds to provide 3 additional weeks of shelf stable meal bags
      - Austin received it's first shipment May 21<sup>st</sup>
      - The remaining shipments are June 4<sup>th</sup>, and June 11<sup>th</sup>
      - The agreement will allow the EAT initiative to increase the amount of shelf stable food bags going out to people experiencing homelessness
      - And some of those meals will go to those who are recently housed
    - The Convention Center and Parks and Recreation staff
      - Producing 1,000 shelf stable bags of food designated for individuals living in encampments outside of the downtown core
      - Producing 1,000 shelf stable bags for those living unsheltered around the downtown core and individuals recently housed and enrolled in housing case management
    - EAT Initiative will continue to investigate food access needs for those experiencing homelessness
      - To determine the scope and length of need as a response to COVID19
    - Austin Resource Recover
      - Increased trash picking to every day at Violet bag location to accommodate trash needs associated with EAT initiative
    - The EAT 123 survey
      - Include information on encampment trash pickup needs
        - EAT has the hopes of providing or increasing trash pickup in the identified locations
      - Or send information to [Michelle.miles@austintexas.gov](mailto:Michelle.miles@austintexas.gov)
    - If you want to participate in any aspect of Eating Apart Together Initiative Zach Shlachter at [zack.shlachter@austintexas.gov](mailto:zack.shlachter@austintexas.gov)

- Communications
  - CoA and Travis County help press conference to emphasize importance of keeping new hospital admissions under 20 a day
    - View recording of press conference here  
<http://www.austintexas.gov/atxn>
  - Plans to produce banner ads for placement in Cap Metro buses with information on how to mitigate transmission of coronavirus
- Downtown Austin Community Court Update (DACC)
  - Continue to offer walk-in triage case management services 8am-5pm Monday through Friday
    - Triage case manager provides flyers to all clients with information on COVID-19 and safety planning
  - And since March 16<sup>th</sup> they have served 1061 individuals, an average of 19 individuals a day
    - Individuals accessing basic hygiene resources or client's case managers reach remotely are not factored into this number

## Implementation Teams Updates

- Emergency Shelter and Unsheltered Implementation Team
  - Recent Team Discussions Items: (the team has not met since last weeks update (5.22.20))
    - Conversations are continuing to address the need for testing, specifically for shelter and congregate settings.
    - Prolodge waitlist is open however still no open units at this time
  - Next Steps:
    - CDC Guideline Efforts - CoC CDC Guidance Document currently being developed by ECHO to be distributed to across our community for Emergency
- Hotel/Motel Implementation Team
  - Recent Team Discussions Items:
  - ProLodge 4 at capacity
    - Clarification around the number of ProLodges that will be brought online, and the timeframe for which they will exist
    - Initial draft of Participant Agreement created
    - Consultants to provide examples of what other communities are doing with similar situations
  - Team Decisions:
    - Subgroups created and established- Prolodge Case Conferencing Group, Prolodge Operations Workgroup
    - Reports to Hotel/Motel Implementation team
  - Next Steps:
    - Create timeline for staffing plan for operations and services.
    - Need to finalize discharge especially for low-risk individuals

- Review survey results once received
    - Review and approve Participant Agreement Draft
- Funding Strategies Implementation Team
  - Recent Team Discussions Items
    - Discussed the timeline for engaging with the Re-Housing team on pulling together the RFA
    - Discussion on timeline for joint COA and ECHO RFA process.
      - How long to leave RFA open
      - How long is review process
  - Team Decisions:
    - Move forward with solicitation of private philanthropy and foundations to join Funders Collaborative
    - Bring APH, NHCD, and ECHO staff together to work on the details of the RFA
  - Next Steps:
    - Work with Re-Housing team to incorporate the recommended housing intervention standards into the RFA
    - Decide on performance outcomes and metrics to include in RFA
    - Solicit foundations and private philanthropy to join COA and ECHO Funders Collaborative
    - Decide on how competition of funds will be operated.
- Rehousing Strategies Implementation Team
  - Recent Team Discussions Items:
    - Reviewing initial drafts of the proposed Rapid Rehousing and Diversion Program Designs
    - Making edits based on collective group feedback
    - Considering the first round of funding's eligibility requirements and restrictions
    - Working on Prevention Programming recommendations – first draft of this Program Design to be presented/reviewed at today's meeting
  - Next Steps:
    - Finalize Program Designs for first round of funding released by the City and ECHO
- Project Management Team
  - Recent Team Discussions Items:
    - How to identify the deliverables, decision points, and timeframes for Implementation Teams, to augment the larger community Action Plan
  - Team Decisions:
    - Approved expansion of Project Management Team to include all co-leads of the implementation teams
    - Approved moving towards PMT meeting once a week for 90 minutes instead of twice a week for 60 minutes
    - Approved Request for Applications (RFA) format for solicitation of first tranche of CARES funding allocation

- Next Steps:
  - Create a document that outlines deliverables from all the Implementation Teams to help facilitation of shift towards response planning
  - Help to get the voices of lived expertise included in the implementation phase of the work
  - Continue to focus on racial equity lens of the response

## Agency Updates

None

## Chat Box

**Andrew Willard**

**10:55**

Feel free to drop and questions, comments, and agency updates within the chat!

**Andrew Willard**

**12:13**

any\*

**Emily Seales**

**16:50**

Just to clarify Lara, that 1061 visits at DACC, but not 1061 unique individuals served?

**larafoss**

**16:55**

You can see the current risk stage at [austintexas.gov/COVID19](https://austintexas.gov/COVID19) • Risk Based Guidelines <https://austintexas.gov/page/covid-19-risk-based-guidelines> <http://austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/2020-05/Risk%20Based%20Guidelines%20-%20FINAL.pdf> • If any agency is interested in learning more about the Pro-lodge operations and services please contact Robert at [Robert.Kingham@austintexas.gov](mailto:Robert.Kingham@austintexas.gov).

**larafoss**

**17:28**

If any programs have capacity to serve clients at these Pro-lodge sites, please contact Vella Karman at [Vella.Karman@austintexas.gov](mailto:Vella.Karman@austintexas.gov) • Please include information regarding trash pickup needs for encampments in the EAT Initiative 1,2,3 survey when food is distributed in the community or send this information to [michelle.myles@austintexas.gov](mailto:michelle.myles@austintexas.gov).

**larafoss**

**17:42**

If you are interested in participating in any aspect of the Eating Apart Together Initiative please contact Zack Shlachter (zack.shlachter@austintexas.gov).• The press release on reopening is on the news page of the city of Austin website.<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/communications/news>• And the press conference is on <http://www.austintexas.gov/atxn>

**Jordan Schmid**

**22:55**

Sorry y'all have to jump off to speak with a client, have a good weekend!

**Emily Seales**

**24:06**

Thank you, Lara. I think it's really important to clarify that difference. Especially with PIT numbers so low, we can't say we are serving 1061 individuals at DACC, as that appears almost half of the PIT count. Thanks!

**kyle**

**33:05**

Thank you