



This triage-screening tool assists shelters and housing programs to modify shelter management strategies in light of the emerging COVID-19 concerns. The triage-screening tool focuses on reorganizing the intake workflow to effectively identify symptomatic and asymptomatic people entering congregate sites. **Public health advises congregate programs to practice social distancing to the maximum extent possible for people who exhibit symptoms.**

The questions on the triage-screening tool are self-reported except for fever. If the client's temperature is 100.4°F or above, mark 'YES' for fever on the screening tool. Shelters are recommended to have infrared thermometers and surgical masks on hand. Infrared thermometers allow staff to check temperatures without person-to-person contact.

Adapting and implementing this tool requires homeless coalitions and local public health authorities to fully understand the resources required to allow programs to separate symptomatic and asymptomatic households. From initial design, to implementation procedure, messaging to clients, and the community – each element should be carefully documented to minimize anxiety and confusion at each step.

Different approaches to social isolation such as reorganizing an existing shelter floor plan, utilizing separate quarantine facilities, and/or accessing individual motel rooms should be examined.

COVID-19 Shelter Client Triage Screening Tool

Become familiar with symptoms of COVID-19 and how they differ from the Flu and allergies.

COVID-19	FLU	ALLERGIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fever ○ Cough ○ Shortness of Breath <p>(Symptoms occur 2 – 14 days after exposure)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fever ○ Cough ○ Sore Throat ○ Headaches ○ Body, Muscle Aches ○ Runny, Stuffy Nose ○ Fatigue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sneezing, Coughing ○ Runny Nose, Scratchy Throat ○ Itchy, Red Watery Eyes

Identify and regularly monitor clients (and staff) who could be at high risk for complications (those who are older, have underlying health conditions like heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, lung disease or who are immune compromised).

The following severe symptoms should be addressed immediately; Call 911:

- Extremely difficult breathing (not being able to speak without gasping for air)
- Bluish lips or face
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- Severe persistent dizziness or lightheadedness
- New confusion, or inability to arouse
- New seizure or seizures that won't stop



Client Name: _____

Location: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Gender: _____

1. Do you have a fever? ___ Yes ___ No

2. Do you have a cough? ___ Yes ___ No

3. Are you experiencing shortness of breath? ___ Yes ___ No

If client answers yes to Questions 1-3, they should be masked and isolated.

4. What is your age? _____

If client answers yes to Question 1-3 and are over 55, they should be transported to the local health department.*

5. Do you have diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, lung disease or any immunosuppressant illnesses? Please specify. _____

If client answers yes to 1-3 and has any illness listed for 5, they should be transported to the local health department.*

6. Have you recently traveled to an infected area or been in contact with someone who has? ___ Yes ___ No

***Prior to transporting, please call your local health department and alert them of the transport.**

Also, please consider the following:

- o Determine if the client is a smoker and has a regular cough which may allow you to rule out the possibility of a virus if that is the only symptom.
- o Should the client screen positive for these symptoms, it does not mean that they have COVID-19. They could have another flu or a common cold. They should be provided with a mask and be isolated from other clients. If their symptoms are severe and they have other underlying conditions, advise them to go to their local health department or family physician.
- o Healthcare providers should refer to the [COVID-19 Triage and Assessment Guide](#).

*Adapted with permission from the TN Valley Continuum of Care Coalition. Created by the Atlanta Continuum of Care (CoC).