



Volunteer Update About COVID-19

Dear Volunteers,

As we continue to monitor the rapidly changing COVID-19 issue, Housing Forward's goal is to provide uninterrupted shelter services while ensuring the protection of our shelter clients, volunteers, and staff.

We are enacting guidance recommendations the CDC has issued for homeless shelters to plan for and respond to the coronavirus. We have been in communication with the Village of Oak Park's Public Health Department and are also actively working with the Cook County Department of Public Health to ensure we are informed and prepared.

At our Shelter sites and the Support Center, program staff have been instructed to monitor and report on any symptoms (i.e. coughing, shortness of breath and fever) among our shelter clients. When appropriate, prompt action will be taken for our clients to seek immediate medical care for screening and treatment.

To stop the spread of germs, volunteers who are sick should stay home and, ideally, find a replacement for their shift.

If you have any questions, please contact our Community Health Nurse, **Deirdre Kassay**, RN, MSN at (708) 338-1724 x225 or dkassay@housingforward.org

We will continue to closely monitor the status of COVID-19 and related public health recommendations; we will provide updates as they become necessary.

As a reminder, we also ask our community to practice kindness. There is already stigma associated with COVID-19 and we don't want our already vulnerable clients to feel in any way ostracized during this time.

Thank you.

Housing Forward Staff

[Click here to read the CDC Interim Guidance for Homeless Service Providers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\).](#)

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