



# JEFFERSON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

1400 6th Avenue South | Birmingham, AL 35233 (205) 933-9110 | [www.jcdh.org](http://www.jcdh.org)

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**04/17/2020**

To Our Partners in Public Health:

Due to the recent concerns regarding the COVID-19 spread in our community, Jefferson County Unified Command in conjunction with the Jefferson County Department of Health (JCDH) are opening up a temporary shelter to help address COVID-19 among persons experiencing homelessness in Jefferson County. The shelter will serve to provide a quick testing service to persons experiencing homelessness who are showing symptoms and will only provide temporary shelter for those individuals who meet the attached guidance. If a person's COVID-19 test is negative, they will be cleared to return to their shelter. If a person's COVID-19 test is positive, the person will be placed into a quarantine area.

The JCDH would also encourage any individual working in this population to go to <https://olc.alabamafirecollege.org/course/view.php?id=4055> for COVID-19 related training.

The site will be active April 17, 2020, and referrals should be made after shelters or agencies have reviewed the attached guidelines. All referrals should call 205-930-1364 or after hours 205-933-9110.

Sincerely,



**Wesley G. Willeford, M.D.**  
**JCDH Medical Director of Disease Control**



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## Guidance to Shelters for Persons who Should be Considered a Person Under Clinical Investigation for COVID-19

April 17, 2020

### 1. COVID-19 Information

- a. The incubation period after exposure to COVID-19 is thought to extend to 14 days, with a median time of 4-5 days from exposure to symptom onset.
- b. **Symptoms of COVID-19:**
  - i. Fever
  - ii. Cough with or without phlegm production
  - iii. Fatigue
  - iv. Decreased appetite
  - v. Shortness of breath
  - vi. Muscle aches

### 2. Screening Strategy

- a. Persons should be screened for symptoms at the time of intake and at least once daily;
- b. Temperature should be taken once daily.

### 3. Persons who should be moved to Person Under Clinical Investigation Area and Offered Testing:

- a. A person who is exhibiting a fever of  $\geq 100.4^{\circ}$  F and new onset of cough
- b. A person who is exhibiting a new onset cough with any of the symptoms listed above
- c. A person who is named as a direct contact to a known positive case of COVID-19

### 4. Persons who should not be moved to Person Under Clinical Investigation Area

- a. Persons with the following severe symptoms should be transferred to an Emergency Room for immediate medical care:
  - i. Extremely difficult breathing (not being able to speak without gasping for air)
  - ii. Bluish lips or face
  - iii. Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
  - iv. Severe persistent dizziness or lightheadedness
  - v. New confusion, or inability to arouse
  - vi. New seizure or seizures that won't stop
  - vii. Any other degree of clinical instability that might jeopardize a person's life

Sincerely,

**Wesley G. Willeford, M.D.**  
JCDH Medical Director of Disease Control