

## COVID-19 Helping Protect the Homeless

### Protecting Against COVID-19

Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton, M.D., MPH, strongly recommends that Ohioans are aware of the following work being done to address Ohioans who have unique living situations, including those who rely on homeless shelters or domestic shelters, those who with developmental disabilities or severe and persistent mental illness who live in group homes, and those individuals living in recovery houses.

- As part of the Philanthropy Strike Force, we have created a Homelessness Team dedicated to this specific work each day.
  - a. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued guidelines about homeless shelters and domestic violence shelters. The Homelessness Team is customizing these guidelines for Ohio's local use.
  - b. The Coalition on Housing and Homelessness in Ohio, the Ohio Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, and Ohio Recovery Housing are helping work through what is needed on the front lines.
  - c. This team is working to incorporate the needs of our neighbors living in homelessness or with an addiction or mental health condition into state planning for access to healthcare through community health centers and planning for quarantine or isolation.
- Shelters aren't built for social distancing, so many communities are finding alternates to shelter or spreading out to other locations. Local communities have been asked to include homeless shelters in planning to more support these Ohioans.
- The Ohio Housing Financing Agency Board has approved \$5 million in unrestricted Agency General Fund Reserves to be used for Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing funds and Emergency Rental Assistance that will be distributed through the state's nine Continua of Care.
- The Ohio Development Services Agency has established the Emergency Shelter Gap Funding Program, a \$1 million effort to support emergency shelter providers during the COVID-19 state of emergency. Community development block grant dollars will be reallocated to emergency shelter providers to meet immediate needs for homeless individuals and households.



The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) is directing some federal opioid response funding to help people living in recovery housing or engaged in treatment to maintain their current housing and prevent homelessness.

- a. OMHAS is also deploying some federal funds to cover additional expenses that adult care facilities are taking on because of COVID-19.
- b. Ohioans can send an email to [COVID19Housing@ohio.mha.gov](mailto:COVID19Housing@ohio.mha.gov) with questions related to these issues.

For additional information, visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov).

For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety related to the coronavirus pandemic, help is available. Call the Disaster Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5990 (1-800-846-8517 TTY); connect with a trained counselor through the Ohio Crisis Text Line by texting the keyword "4HOPE" to 741 741; or call the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services help line at 1-877-275-6364 to find resources in your community.

Additional resources:

CDC Guidance Regarding Shelters: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/unsheltered-homelessness.html>

OFHA Funding Information: <https://ohiohome.org/news/releases/2020/covid-19.aspx>

DSA Grant Information: <https://development.force.com/OCDKnowledgeArticles/s/article/Emergency-Shelter-Gap-Funding-Program>

# CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 Ohio

Department  
of Health

Protect yourself and others from  
COVID-19 by taking these precautions.

## PREVENTION

For additional information call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH or visit [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov).



STAY HOME



PRACTICE  
SOCIAL  
DISTANCING



GET ADEQUATE SLEEP  
AND EAT WELL-  
BALANCED  
MEALS



WASH HANDS OFTEN  
WITH WATER AND SOAP  
( 20 SECONDS  
OR LONGER)



DRY HANDS WITH  
A CLEAN TOWEL  
OR AIR DRY  
YOUR HANDS



COVER YOUR MOUTH  
WITH A TISSUE OR  
SLEEVE WHEN  
COUGHING OR SNEEZING



AVOID TOUCHING  
YOUR EYES, NOSE,  
OR MOUTH WITH  
UNWASHED HANDS  
OR AFTER  
TOUCHING SURFACES



CLEAN AND DISINFECT  
"HIGH-TOUCH"  
SURFACES OFTEN



CALL BEFORE VISITING  
YOUR DOCTOR



PRACTICE GOOD  
HYGIENE HABITS

For more information, visit: [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov)