



Tracking Coronavirus: Addressing Homelessness

What is Anaheim doing to help the homeless during the coronavirus outbreak?

Anaheim is following state and federal guidelines and implementing best practices to stop the spread of coronavirus for everyone in our city, and that includes those who are living in homelessness.

We have increased sanitation and cleaning in our city-owned homeless shelters, implemented best practices in coordination with our partner service providers, as well as enhanced outreach and sanitation efforts for those who are not in a shelter.

As part of our efforts to increase cleaning at all city facilities, we have enhanced sanitation efforts in our park restrooms.

What measures is Anaheim taking to stop the spread of coronavirus among the homeless population in our shelters?

Anaheim's two homeless shelters, the Anaheim Emergency Shelter operated by The Salvation Army, and the La Mesa Emergency Shelter operated by Illumination Foundation, have both taken measures to help reduce risk of coronavirus.

Both operators have stepped up cleaning of doorknobs, railings, bathrooms and other frequently touched surfaces in the shelters. They have prohibited any nonessential visitors and substantially limited travel by shelter residents.

Additional sanitizer and hand washing stations have also been made available for those living at both shelters.

The Salvation Army and Illumination Foundation both have plans in place for quarantine should they see cases at the shelters, and have provided staff with education and resources to protect themselves and reduce spread of coronavirus.

What is Anaheim doing to encourage best practices for those living on the streets?

Anaheim works with nonprofit partner City Net on daily homeless outreach in our city.

City Net has stepped up efforts to prevent potential coronavirus cases among those living on our streets and other public places. This includes educating employees about



best practices for social distancing and sanitation, as well as providing this information to homeless individuals.

City Net has always offered sanitation kits, including hand sanitizer, when they do their outreach and that has also been important in light of the coronavirus outbreak.

Will Anaheim or the state be opening up hotels for those who are homeless?

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced Sunday, March 15, that the state of California would be exploring options for using hotels and other public and private facilities to house those living in homelessness during the coronavirus situation.

We await specifics from the state on this proposal and look to the governor's direction on how best to proceed. We are well aware of local concerns as well as potential competing demands for these facilities by hospitals that may also need space.

Right now, we continue to offer beds in our existing shelters for those who are living on the streets. City Net is working with our network of resources across the county to find available beds for those who wish to go into a shelter.