Guide for On-site Isolation & Quarantine for Unlicensed Group Living Settings

The Alameda County Isolation & Quarantine (I&Q) hotel will be permanently closing at the end of February 2023. We urge unlicensed congregate living facilities to develop a plan to safely isolate and quarantine residents who test positive, have symptoms, or were exposed to COVID-19. For additional support, please email COVIDOB@acgov.org.

Please consider the following when developing plans for this upcoming change:

- **Designate specific rooms in your facility to be used as isolation and quarantine spaces.**

- **Isolation:** Residents with symptoms of COVID-19 should be moved to a private area of the facility for isolation and be tested as soon as possible.
  - COVID-19 positive residents may isolate together.
  - Isolate residents with symptoms without a positive test separately (these residents may have other respiratory illnesses such as influenza or RSV).

- **Quarantine:** You may quarantine high-risk close contacts together if they do not have symptoms. For more information on isolation and quarantine, review the ACPHD Steps for Preventing & Controlling Outbreaks document.

- **Masking:** Symptomatic and/or positive residents and close contacts of positive cases should wear a KN95 or N95 mask for at least 10 days.

- **Restrooms:** COVID-19 positive residents should use a separate restroom from other residents, if possible.
  - If restrooms are shared, keep well-ventilated.
  - Keep windows open and fans running at all times.
  - Restrooms should be disinfected before and after each use.
  - Schedule times of use where masks will be removed (showers, brushing teeth, etc.).

- **Dining:** Deliver all meals to residents’ rooms.
  - If not possible for residents to eat in their rooms, come up with another option, such as eating outside.
  - Have residents use disposable utensils OR thoroughly wash utensils between each resident use.

- **Cleaning & Disinfecting:** Clean all high-touch surfaces regularly. Disinfect surfaces and areas touched/used by positive and/or symptomatic persons. See CDC’s Cleaning & Disinfecting Guidelines for more information.

- **Ventilation:** Evaluate your facility's current ventilation systems.
  - Use windows and window fans to draw fresh air in and let “dirty” air out of rooms.
  - Use portable HEPA filter units.
  - If you have an HVAC system, keep it set to “on” for continuous ventilation.
  - Cal/OSHA may have additional ventilation guidelines for workplaces.
  - Homeless service provider sites should review the Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless Environmental Health page for additional information.

- **Essential Group Activities:** Conduct these activities via online platforms or outside. Instruct residents to physically distance as much as possible and not share personal items such as cigarettes.