

4/15/2020

South King County – weekly COVID-19 Community call follow-ups

Jeff Dineen, South Renton Neighborhood Association

Q: How will these locations be shut down after this is done? Will people staying there remain in the community?

A: The County will work with DESC arrange transportation for individuals to go back to DESC shelter(s) when the facility is no longer needed. The hotel will resume normal operations and will no longer serve as a shelter de-intensification site.

Councilmember Hill, City of SeaTac

Q: How many people are at the SeaTac site? What's the total capacity?

A: The SeaTac shelter deintensification site will have space for 101 occupants. The site currently has 99 occupants.

Q: If we exceed capacity are there other facilities? Can we get trending numbers are they going up or not? Is there testing at the deintensification centers? What is the action if they test positive?

A: At this time, we do not anticipate needing additional beds or locations to further de-intensify the Catholic Community Services shelters this site is intended to de-intensify. Each de-intensification site is a partnership with a specific homeless service provider to de-intensify existing shelters they operate. For SeaTac, the site is a partnership with CCS and for Renton, the partnership is with DESC. No CCS clients would go to the DESC site in Renton.

A: Testing in WA State is being prioritized for high risk populations (Age 60+, health care workers, first responders, seniors living in long term care facilities) and for individuals who are exhibiting symptoms. Because the De-Intensification facilities are housing presumed healthy individuals who are not exhibiting symptoms, occupants are not prioritized for testing before entering the facility.

A: Any individual who displays symptoms and/or tests positive for COVID-19 will be moved to a county isolation/quarantine facility, and testing will be made available to anyone who interacted with that individual.

Jeff Dineen, South Renton Neighborhood Association

Q: On average what percent of the time do people stay in the deintensification facility complying with stay at home directive? Are people staying the facility or do they spend day out in community?

A: Everyone staying at the deintensification site has been instructed to honor Governor Inslee's stay home directive. Clients are complying and leave to get fresh air or groceries, which is allowed under the Governor's order. DESC is delivering three meals per day to help limit how much people need to leave their rooms.

Councilmember Ruth Perez, City of Renton

Comment: Has noticed people from the deintensification center leaving are not wearing clothed masks. Renton is asking community to wear them. If the site does not have cloth masks the CM is open to help connect resources for face masks for people at this site

A: DESC has expectation for clients and staff to wear cloth masks when possible and is coordinating making masks for staff and clients to wear. DESC is currently expecting the delivery of masks to the Red Lion site that should be arriving soon. DESC will follow up on the Councilmember's offer of support if necessary down the line.

Diane Dobson, Renton Chamber of Commerce

Q: There have been concerns expressed to the chamber about people that are leaving facility that are leaving site and not wearing face cloth masks.

A: This site is serving individuals who are presumed healthy, meaning that they are under same directive as the rest of the community to stay home and stay healthy. People are expected to stay in their rooms, but they can leave for air, food, and essential trips.

Q: What sort of outreach has King County had with businesses, how does the follow up look like? Should businesses be getting more security?

A: Our outreach efforts in Renton have consisted of conversations, calls, and emails with local businesses in the vicinity of the Red Lion. We have reached out to invite community members and business leaders to these weekly calls and have included those who are interested on our weekly email update list as well. We are willing to talk more about further outreach and the possibility of setting up a business focused call for the area if there is interest in such a call. We are also want to connect with the Chamber if there are businesses we have missed in our initial outreach to the area. Our King County community business mitigation team is holding weekly calls and webinars for small business owners and chamber staff from across the county. If businesses from Renton and Seatac would like to be included in those calls we can absolutely share those details.

Hugo Garcia, Economic Development Manager, King County Department of Local Services

A: The community business task force has been working to aggregate business funds and resources, and we are holding weekly webinars for businesses. The taskforce has also been working with local chambers of commerce to make sure these webinars are open and available to community. There is work being done to make previous webinars available. This work is countywide but with a focus on unincorporated and South King County. The task force continues to work with communities and Councilmember offices in these areas to build up support for local businesses.