

VMRC's Surge Plan FAQ

Q. 1. What is Surge?

A. 1. Surge is the anticipated spike or increase in the incidents of COVID-19.

The Department of Developmental Services has directed Regional Centers to develop a **Surge** plan in order to meet the “*DDS Expectations for Consumers Coming back from the Hospital or ER¹*” protocol.

Q.2. What is VMRC's Surge plan?

A.2. VMRC is taking precautions to anticipate the increased need for consumers to be provided with private rooms in the event that they need to be isolated, they could either be positive for COVID-19 or at risk from exposure to someone who tested positive for COVID-19.

- **Phase I:** Licensed Residential homes- all homes in development that are eligible for vendorization have been added to VMRC's Surge Plan- these homes are provided with Personal Protective Equipment and have agreed to follow DDS and VMRC recommendations for isolation protocols.
- **Phase II.** VMRC is working with adult day programs to develop plans to modify their site to be able to serve consumers who have been exposed to COVID 19 or who may be positive for COVID 19 but do not require hospitalization.
- **Phase III.** VMRC is identifying alternative settings such as rental homes, hotels and structures that can be used on a short term basis to house persons who have been exposed or test positive for COVID 19.

Q.3. How is a Surge home different that a vendored residential home?

A.3. Surge homes are different in that they only offer private bedrooms in order to minimize the risk of COVID 19. This enables the consumer and staff to follow the DDS isolation protocols for the first 14 days.

Q.4. Are Surge home placements short term? Does the consumer have to move after a 14 day isolation period?

¹ <https://files.constantcontact.com/fa53a377601/0ebec30e-53da-47f4-92e4-4268ffd3369a.pdf>

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A.4. Surge homes are meant for long term placement. The consumer DOES NOT have to move after 14 days.

Q.5. What do I do if a consumer on my caseload goes to the ER for a non-COVID-19 related issue and is not admitted?

A.5. If the consumer lives in licensed care and has a shared room and there is not a private room available at their residence, you MUST submit a packet for placement consideration to the Residential Screening team.

Q.6 Is the Residential Screening team still reviewing placement requests?

A. 6. Yes. ***All residential placement is screened-*** all levels, 2, 3, 4, ICF, etc. The residential screening committee is reviewing residential placement needs on a ***daily*** basis and giving them priority.

Once the Residential Screening team has identified an appropriate option, the team will include the Department of Developmental Service Review team in the email conversation for approval (PlacementReview@dds.ca.gov) .

The DDS Placement Review team may have questions about the consumers' needs or about the proposed placement recommendation.