

FAQs--Temporary Shelter During COVID-19 Pandemic

1. How is Fairfax County supporting individuals who need housing to safely isolate and quarantine during the COVID-19 pandemic?

In response to the COVID -19 public health emergency and the need to isolate and quarantine individuals to prevent the spread of the virus, Fairfax County has activated ESF6 Mass Care Health and Human Services to provide Quarantine, Protection, Isolation/Decompression (QPID) emergency housing for those who have met the eligibility criteria in which alternative mechanisms within the home for appropriate infection control cannot be established.

The Fairfax County Isolation/Quarantine Hotels are temporary sheltering sites only and do not provide health care services. This sheltering is not an alternate care site and hotel placements are available only to individuals who can do their own self-care and are independent in their care; or in the case of the homeless, utilizing the care options available to them routinely. Health care providers will not be on-site to provide to health care needs.

2. I have questions about how to safely isolate and quarantine due to the COVID-19 virus. Who do I contact?

Call the Fairfax County Health Department's Call Center at 703-267-3511.

3. I have heard that Fairfax County has hotel rooms available to keep people safe from the COVID-19 virus. How do I access these hotel rooms?

Fairfax County has established a temporary shelter for individuals who can support their own self-care, but cannot be successful safely isolating or quarantining at home due to severe overcrowding or the presence of a household member at high risk of serious complications of disease.

Referral for a hotel placement is determined through review of the eligibility criteria by Health Department Community Health Workers or Federally Qualified Health Centers such as Neighborhood Health and Health Works.

4. How is the temporary shelter that is being provided different than the other housing needs provided by Fairfax County?

We recognize that there are individuals who have either tested positive for COVID-19, been exposed to someone who tested positive, experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or are at high risk of developing a severe illness who need to be isolated for their safety and the safety of others for a short duration of approximately 14 days. Fairfax County is committed to providing temporary shelter for these vulnerable populations. Individuals who need housing assistance

who do not fall into the categories listed above should contact Coordinated Services Planning 703-222-0880.

5. What are the requirements to obtain temporary housing during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Hotels continue to be used as isolation, quarantine, protection, and overflow shelter for people experiencing homelessness, as well as individuals living in overcrowded situations that do not have the ability to isolate safely at home. The individuals using the temporary housing must be able to do their own self-care and be independent as they would be if they were in their own home.

6. I may have been exposed to COVID-19 and I need a place to stay so I do not infect my family. Who can I call for help?

If you believe you have COVID-19, please stay home and call your health care provider for evaluation and testing. Testing locations are found [here](#). If you do not have a health care provider, there are safety net clinics and urgent care sites listed where evaluation and testing can be combined. If you have an alternative diagnosis to COVID-19, please follow your health care providers care advice. If you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and meet the eligibility criteria for temporary housing at the hotel, one of the referral sources will make the referral. See question 3.

7. Do the hotels cost money?

No. Individuals and families will not incur costs for their stay at hotels. Fairfax County is utilizing funds received from the CARES Act to cover costs.

8. How long can I stay at the hotel?

If you are positive for COVID or asked to quarantine, the Health Department uses a system called Sara-Alerts that you will be enrolled in and you must enter your status every day. There are specific discharge criteria for isolation and quarantine that is being monitored through Sara-Alerts (by the health department) and you will be informed when you have met the end of isolation or quarantine. If the hotel stay is for isolation, the discharge criteria is based on three days after last symptoms with no fever reducing medication **and**, 10 days since your symptoms first appeared.

If the hotel stay is due to quarantine, the discharge criteria is based 14 days after the date of your last exposure if symptoms do not develop.

9. Can I bring pets to the hotel?

We have some hotels that are pet friendly and will work with individuals who would like to bring their pets.

10. Who will make the determination of which hotel I am placed in?

A Central Intake Coordinator will help identify which hotel site will best meet your needs. The Central Intake Coordinator will also assist with any transportation needs that an individual or family may have.

11. Where are the hotels located?

Hotel housing locations information is not shared publicly to protect client privacy. Generally they are in Herndon, Fall Church, and Alexandria.