



District of Columbia
Interagency Council on Homelessness



ERSO Committee

May 26, 2021

Meeting Agenda



- I. Welcome & Call to Order
- II. Introductions
- III. Updates:
 - a. COVID Peers
 - b. Streamlining Intake
- IV. Discussion
 - a. Post COVID Operations
 - b. PEP-V Demobilization
- V. Updates & Announcements
- VI. Adjournment

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COVID-19 Peer Educators: 2nd Cohort

Changes for 2nd Cohort:

- Focus on Youth
- Outreach Team – that will do peer engagement in the community

Timeline:

- Completing interviews this week
- Training starts June 16th

Questions?

- Madeleine.Solan@dc.gov

Shelter / Program Name	# Peers to be Selected
Youth Shelters (Casa Ruby, Covenant House, Sasha Bruce)	10
Harriet Tubman	7
New York Avenue	3
801 East	3
Pat Handy	3
Adam's Place	3
Outreach Team	6
Total	35

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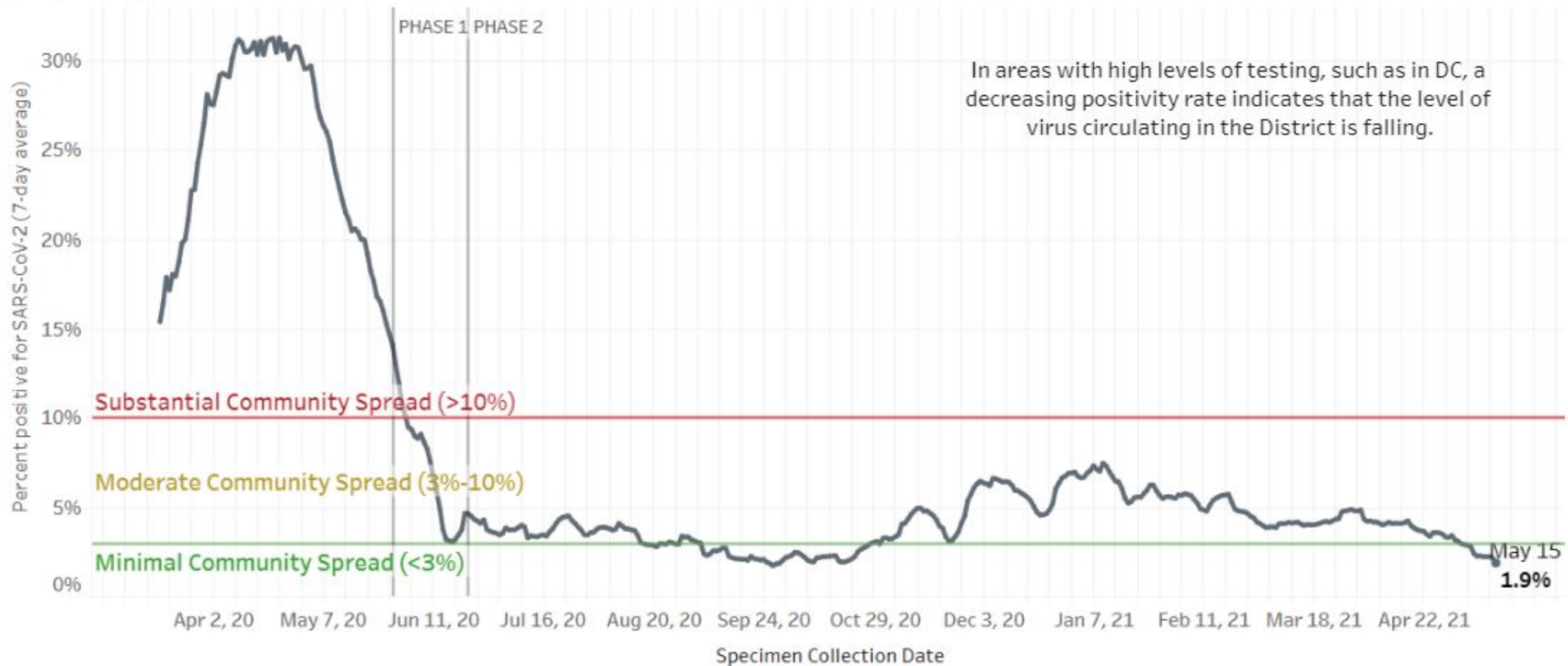


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COVID Metrics



Positivity Rate (7-day average)



Sources: DC Health and Public Health Labs. **Data are subject to change on a daily basis.**

Metric Definition: Test positivity rate is calculated by date of specimen collection and takes the number of DC residents who test positive in a screening or diagnostic test, divided by the number of DC residents with an adequate sample collection for a test on that date.

Mayor's Order 2021-069

- As of May 17, fully vaccinated people only need to wear masks or social distance in places where it is required.
- As of, May 21, restrictions on most public and commercial activity, including capacity limits, types of activities, and time restrictions, were lifted.
- On Friday, June 11, nightclubs and large sports and entertainment venues will be able to resume full normal operations.
- Masks are still required on public transportation, homeless shelters, healthcare settings, schools/childcare settings, prisons and where required per workplace

What else do we know?

- **We are still in a public health emergency.** While the end seems to be in sight, it's not over yet. DC Council authorized extension through July 25.
- While many District business and agencies are re-opening – **shelters are exempt from the relaxed guidance** because of the ease of transmission in congregate settings and the highly vulnerable population.
- **Social Distancing & PPE** (wearing masks) are still **highly recommended for unvaccinated individuals** to prevent the spread of COVID and **will continue to be required in shelter** for the foreseeable future.
- **Health guidance is evolving.** We will likely see additional guidance from the CDC and DC Health that will provide additional information about COVID protections in settings such as shelters.

Updated Shelter Guidance

****Unless noted below – all other modified operations continue****

Staying the Same

- **Masks required at all times** – regardless of vaccination status
- **Daily symptom screening and temperature checks**
- **Social distancing** of at least 6 feet at all times
- **Mass Testing** after a confirmed positive case
- **Isolation and Quarantine if** positive, a close contact, or experiencing symptoms
- **Maintain cleaning protocols.**

Changes

- **Travel Restrictions are Lifted**
- **Quarantine is NOT required** if...
 - **Fully vaccinated** [as long as no symptoms]
 - **Tested positive within the past 90 days**
- **Testing is NOT required if...**
 - **Fully vaccinated** & did not have close contact
 - **Tested positive in past 90 days**

Return to Pre-COVID Operations

- **DHS planning to take a phased approach** to returning to pre-COVID operations based on updated guidance from DC Health and input from key stakeholders.
- The next few slides share DHS' current plans for post COVID Operations.
- **We are seeking your feedback** to see if you have any major concerns or factors to consider.

Return to Pre-COVID Operations: Capacity

- Since social distancing and masks are still required to protect the unvaccinated population, **we plan to maintain COVID capacity limits until community transmission declines even further.**
- If community transmission continues to decline as the District re-opens (after June 11), and DHS continues to see a decline/halt in COVID cases in shelter, DHS will gradually increase capacity limits in shelter.

Return to Pre-COVID Operations

- The Stay-at-Home Order is lifted and the risk of getting COVID in the community has drastically declined.
- Libraries and other business are re-opening and are a place for individuals to go during the day.
- Day Centers gradually resuming normal operations
 - DDSC – resuming services at reduced capacity in June, gradually increasing to full capacity
 - Adams – looking towards late June/July for gradual re-opening
- We are still considering extending 24 hour operations through the summer – DHS does not yet have a target date for when daytime closure would resume.

Return to Pre-COVID Operations: Transportation

- DHS must maintain social distancing in our transportation until we return to pre-covid capacity.
- Social distancing in the van limits the capacity.
- DHS is providing on-demand transportation, but has not yet resumed scheduled transportation.
- DHS plans to return to scheduled transportation will be aligned with the phased approach to Day Center Re-Opening and any significant changes of shelter schedules.

- DHS must maintain social distancing in shelter, however we would like to return to in-person services while wearing a mask and maintaining 6 feet of distance with the client.

COVID-19 Vaccinations

- DHS will continue to encourage vaccine participation
 - Unity Mobile Vans can come to shelter to do vaccinations, email Zelalem Zemichael ZZemichael@UnityHealthCare.org to coordinate
 - COVID-19 Peer Educators
- Everyone encouraged to get vaccinated as focus on preventing spread of COVID

More info: <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/vaccine>

Questions?

- After questions we will be moving into breakout rooms for discussion.

Questions for Break Out Groups

- Are there any operations that are interconnected where one area of modified operations relies on the other? (e.g. scheduled transportation is needed to allow for Daytime Closure in Shelter)
- Daytime Shelter Closure
 - Would we want to keep 24 hour operations if that could significantly impact the budget in other ways? Why or why not?
 - If we return to Daytime Closure, is it possible to keep aspects of the modified operations that have been beneficial e.g. bed assignments? What other modified operations would it be helpful to keep?
- Case Management
 - What would be needed to required face-to-face case management in shelter social distanced?
- Day Center
 - What would be needed to return Day Center/Meal Sites to indoor operations? How can we ensure Day Centers/Meal Sites open safely?
- What is the best way to ensure we gain customer feedback as we plan for post COVID operations?

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PEP-V Demobilization



- ❖ Preparing for PEP-V Closure
 - Funding for PEP-V is authorized through September 30, 2021.

- ❖ COVID-19 vaccine is the most effective method for residents, including those with underlying health conditions.
 - PEP-V residents may contact their case manager if interested in learning about and/or taking the vaccine.

PEP-V Demobilization Cont'd



Programs Supporting PEP-V Exits

Programs	Program Description
Project Reconnect	Flexible funds and case management to help you reconnect with external social supports i.e., moving in with family members, leasing a room with a roommate or reunification with family in another jurisdiction.
Rapid Rehousing	Short term rental assistance and case management to help you build your income and sustain housing over 12 to 18 months
Targeted Affordable Housing	Client has to have experienced chronic homelessness (Homeless a year or more) and have a diagnosis of severe and persistent mental illness or a chronic health condition. Client does not require intensive case management.
Permanent Supportive Housing	Client has to have experienced chronic homelessness (Homeless a year or more) and have a diagnosis of severe and persistent mental illness or a chronic health condition. Client has a need for intensive case management

PEP-V Demobilization Cont'd



Other Supports

- ❖ Monthly Town-hall meetings
- ❖ Information sessions with SNAP E and T
- ❖ Information Sessions with Rapid Rehousing
- ❖ Onsite hours for Project Reconnect
- ❖ Office hours for SOARS Specialist
- ❖ Stay DC: www.stay.dc.gov
- ❖ Additional resources to come...

PEP-V Demobilization Cont'd



PEP-V Capacity (as of 5/25/2021)



**PEP-V 1:
Arboretum**

Opened: Mar 2020

**Rooms for Client
Occupancy:
109 Rooms**

**Census:
152 people**



**PEP-V 2: Holiday
Inn**

Opened: May 2020

**Rooms for Client
Occupancy:
193 Rooms**

**Census:
235 people**



PEP-V 3: Fairfield

Opened: Oct 2020

**Rooms for Client
Occupancy:
115 Rooms**

**Census:
148 people**



**PEP-V 4: Capitol
Skyline**

Opened: April 2021

**Rooms for Client
Occupancy:
120 Rooms**

**Census:
51 people**

PEP-V Demobilization Cont'd



Case Management Assignments

PEP-V Case Management Provider	PEP-V Site
Catholic Charities	Arboretum
	Fairfield
Metropolitan Educational Solutions	Skyline
	Holiday Inn

Questions?



After questions, we will be moving into breakout rooms for further discussion.

PEP-V Demobilization Breakout Groups



- Knowing not every client will be matched to a PSH/TAH Voucher, and many will need to utilize Project Reconnect or RRH to exit shelter, what information/data should be shared at our PEP-V Town Halls?
- Outside of VI-SPDAT score and Chronic Status, what information do we need to gather to ensure clients are being matched to the appropriate resource? (income, employment, health needs, family/friends connections, etc.)
- What are creative ways we can use RRH and Project Reconnect to move clients into permanent housing (housing PEP-V roommates together, renting rooms in houses, etc.)
 - Are there any other resources that should be on our radar?
- Once matched to a resource, how do we continue to ensure clients move into housing as quickly possible?

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