

OR-503, HOMELESS LEADERSHIP COALITION

Policy on Promoting Health, Safety, and Wellness within the Homeless Response System

All HLC (Or-503) member entities who receive funding through Housing and Urban Development (such as ESG, Annual NOFO, CDBG, etc.) are required to abide by this policy. The below expectations may be incorporated into site monitoring at the discretion of the CoC governing board. All other members are encouraged to follow these best practices and to promote health, safety, and wellness within the homeless response system.

1. Member entities are required to stay current with local, state, and federal sanitation and building codes, fire codes, food handling codes, health codes, and to comply with the health and safety recommendations from the following:
 - i. Area public health departments
 - ii. [Oregon Health Authority](#)
 - iii. [Oregon Department of Health and Human Services](#)
 - iv. [Centers for Disease Control](#)
 - v. [Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries](#)
 - vi. [OSHA](#)
2. Member entities are required to take steps through training and education to mitigate the risks of:
 - i. Respiratory disease
 - ii. Infectious disease
 - iii. Food and waterborne illness
 - iv. Disease that can spread through blood or body fluids
 - v. Disease that can spread through contact with surfaces (bacteria, parasites, viruses, etc.)
 - vi. Abuse and neglect of vulnerable populations
 - b. Staff and volunteers should be trained annually and know where to access the information or supportive resources when needed.
3. It is strongly recommended that service providers maintain their own policies, procedures, and protocols for the following:
 - i. [Mandatory reporting of abuse and neglect](#)
 - ii. [Infectious disease prevention](#)
 - iii. [Safe needle precautions](#)
 - iv. Health screening protocols
 - v. Illness/disease reporting protocols
 - vi. Congregate shelter isolation and readmittance protocols
 - vii. Sanitation protocols: disinfecting surfaces, steps to clean up vomit or feces, handling soiled linens/clothing
 - viii. [Use of Personal Protective Equipment](#)

4. All member entities serving and distributing food must:
 - a. Provide handwashing facilities. *Hand sanitizer may be a substitute in encampments without access to water.*
 - b. Ensure food is served to guests, not allow self-service buffets, and serve portions vs family style
 - c. Thoroughly and continuously disinfect the facility and food areas
 - d. Ensure food preparation and serving is supervised by those who hold a valid [Food Handler's card](#)
 - e. Submit to inspections by local public and environmental health agencies
5. Member entities are encouraged to report health and safety concerns that would negatively impact individuals served by the homeless response system to the appropriate party to remedy the concern.

RESOURCES		
Oregon Health Authority	Division of Public Health	971-673-1222
State of Oregon, Department of Human Services,	Reporting Abuse/Neglect	1-855-503-SAFE (7233)
Crook County Health Dept.	All Depts	(541) 447-5165
Jefferson County Health Dept.	All Depts	(541) 475-4456
Deschutes County Health Dept.	General Public Health Info	(541) 322-7400
	Environmental Health	(541) 317-3114
	Communicable Disease	(541) 322-7418
Housing and Urban Development	Use HUDs Ask A Question Portal	
Additional resources:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries and OSHA • The Oregon Health Authority's Environmental Public Health Division • CDC resources for Food Safety • Disease Risks and Homelessness Page of the HUD Exchange. Click here to access • Infectious Disease Toolkit for CoC's Click here to Access • How to Report Abuse and Neglect (includes a training video) • Sanitation and Hygiene Guide for homeless service providers from Seattle King County 		