

BCHD / Helping Up Mission Covid-19 Isolation Assistance For People Experiencing Homelessness

Dear Client,

Beginning in December 2022, Baltimore City Health Department partnered with Helping Up Mission to provide safe isolation assistance for Covid-positive individuals without stable housing. This service is free, and your participation is voluntary. This document provides a timeline and details about your stay if you accept to come to this program.

General Information

The Helping Up Mission isolation units are residential spaces set apart for people without housing who have tested positive for COVID-19. There are separate men's and women's isolation units at 2 Helping Up Mission Locations, separate from other Helping Up Mission programs. These units are managed by Helping Up Mission staff, who are not medical personnel. These staff are there to help make sure your needs are met during your stay.

Timeline

Isolation is designed to protect others from catching Covid-19. Due to the risk of widespread transmission in close, shared spaces, **homeless service sites are advised to isolate COVID-positive individuals for 10 days**, instead of the 5 days recommended for the general public. Clients who complete a full 10-day isolation at Helping Up Mission will receive a letter stating they have completed isolation, which they may show to any shelter or residential program.

Your isolation period is calculated by Helping Up Mission and Health Department staff. **Day Zero is the day the test was taken. The "last day of isolation," day 10, must be completed in full. Release will occur the next day, Day 11**, if symptoms have improved and you have not had a fever for 24 hours.

Example: If a person tested positive on December 1st, Day Zero, the individual is asked to isolate for 10 full days with release from isolation occurring on December 12th, Day 11.

Expectations and Safety

- Meals are provided by HUM at no cost; food will be delivered, and dining will occur in the isolation area.
- Clients are expected to cooperate with HUM staff and behave in a manner that respects the health and safety of others; clients unable to abide by HUM policies may be discharged.
- **Participation is voluntary; however, clients must stay in the isolation unit for the full 10 days. Any client who leaves the building for any reason other than for a medical consultation is considered discharged and will not be allowed to return.**
- Discharged individuals should not enter another shelter or shared housing program until after their isolation period has ended (isolation ends 11 days from the day the test was taken).
- Smoking and personal care will be allowed in designated areas.
- Masking and social distancing (staying six feet apart) is necessary when staff are present and if clients leave the isolation area for medical consultation.
- For the health and safety of all, contact with outside visitors is not allowed during your isolation stay. HUM staff will help with client needs, so requests to deliver personal items from the outside should be minimized.

Post Discharge Services and Resources

While continued shelter at HUM may be possible after completing isolation, due to limited space, this is not guaranteed. HUM will work with each client and local partners to try to identify a safe discharge to another shelter or program.

Client Signature/Date: _____