

March 23, 2020 • Information for community members

First Temporary Care Center for COVID-19 Assessment and Recovery

Protecting those most at risk is our top priority.

To care for the most vulnerable populations in Pierce County, we will set up temporary care facilities for people in Pierce County during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Assessment and recovery are effective and essential to slow the spread of disease and save lives. Pierce County will need several temporary care centers to house vulnerable Pierce County residents exposed to COVID 19 who don't have a safe place to stay for the 14-day quarantine period. The sites are also for people who tested positive or awaiting test results and don't need hospital care and don't have a safe place to stay. Staying at the center is voluntary. People will only be there if they can't stay at home and choose to stay at the center. These temporary care centers provide local care without adding to the mounting pressure on the hospital system.

What are assessment and recovery?

- **Assessment (quarantine):** People exposed to a confirmed COVID-19 case. People in quarantine are assessed for signs or symptoms of the virus. They need to be alone for 14 days to reduce any potential spread of the disease.
- **Recovery (isolation):** People tested positive for the virus or have symptoms and are waiting for test results. They don't need hospital care but must remain isolated from others and so the disease doesn't spread.

Temporary care center location.

The first temporary care center is likely a Central Pierce County hotel.

Leaning in to address complex problems as a community.

We know many people in Pierce County have struggles. We know these sites may raise concerns. We need to balance those concerns with the immediate need for these centers. Our residents are strong and rise to face challenges every day. We must support them as they support those who would otherwise not have a safe space to recover. Our goal is to provide services and accommodations for language, disability, and other factors to ensure residents of each center have fair, equitable access to services. This may include interpretation by phone and ADA-compliant rooms.

Our plans address the following local concerns:

- The Health Department will assign rooms and sign off before anyone leaves.
- We will provide security 24/7. Visitors aren't allowed.
- Each center will have full on-site services including medical, mental health, food and laundry.
- We'll report regularly on patient count and health status and monitor and respond to concerns.
- We'll work with trusted leaders including culturally and linguistically diverse populations.

- Local communities hosting these centers will incur no costs.
- Whenever possible, we'll purchase food, supplies and other items from local businesses.

How we selected this location.

Siting these services is not a decision we take lightly. Many people stepped forward to offer their sites.

The Department of Emergency Management reviewed more than 80 sites countywide. Site selection criteria included:

- Immediate availability.
- Security and access to police and fire services.
- Bathing, toilet and laundry facilities.
- Food and entertainment options.
- Accessibility for people with disabilities.

After a full review, only a handful of potential sites met the criteria. Our goal is to have at least 3 Temporary Care Centers, one or more in central, east and west Pierce County. The property owner for the first temporary care center supports providing these services at their location. Their support was a key part of our decision.

We want to hear from you.

We have talked with many people about this location. People living homeless told us they wanted to stay near their friends and support systems. We also talked to their caregivers in local shelters. We reached out to elected officials and our trusted partners, like non-profits and key community volunteers. Now we are reaching out to you. Although we need to get this center up immediately, we want to make sure we listen to any needs or concerns you have throughout the process.

Want to tell us more?

Call us at (855) 722-5378 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

Email us at pccallcenter1@tpchd.org.