

March 23, 2020 • Information for community members

Location of 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, the government agencies and non-profit partners responding to the COVID-19 outbreak will set up temporary care facilities for people in Pierce County during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Assessment and recovery are effective and essential to public health. They will slow the spread of disease and save lives. Pierce County will need several temporary care facilities to temporarily house vulnerable Pierce County residents who have been exposed to COVID 19 and do not have a safe place to stay for the 14-day quarantine period. The sites will also be for people who have tested positive or awaiting test results and do not need hospital care and do not have a safe place to stay. Staying at the facility is voluntary. People will only be there if they cannot stay at home and choose to stay at the facility. It will provide local care without adding to the mounting pressure on the hospital system.

What are assessment and recovery?

- Assessment (quarantine): People have been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19. 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 have tested positive for the virus, or have symptoms and are waiting for test results, and do not need hospital care and must be isolated from others and so the disease does not spread.

Temporary care facility locations.

The first temporary care facility is likely to be a hotel in central Pierce County.

Leaning in to address complex problems as a community.

We know many people in Pierce County have struggles. Our goal is to have at least three Temporary Care Facilities, one or more in central, east and west Pierce County. Placing the site here may raise concerns. We need to balance those concerns with the immediate need for this site. Our residents are strong and rise to face challenges every day. We must support them as they have again stepped up to support those who would otherwise not have a space to safely recover. Our goal is to provide services and accommodations for language, disability, and other factors to ensure residents of each facility 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.
- Security will be provided 24/7. No visitors will be allowed.

- Each facility 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.
- None of the costs will be passed on to the local community hosting these facilities.
- Whenever possible, we'll purchase food, supplies and other items from local businesses.

How we selected this site.

Siting these services is not a decision that we take lightly. We hope you'll understand why our team chose this location.

Many people stepped forward to offer their facilities. The Department of Emergency Management reviewed more than 80 sites countywide. Their site selection criteria included many factors such as:

- 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 team wanted to be sure we had facilities in different parts of Pierce County. The owners of this property reached out to share that they fully support providing these services in this facility. Their support was a key part of our decision.

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

Want to tell us more?

For additional information or to resolve concerns call 855-722-5378. Or send questions to pccallcenter1@tpchd.org.