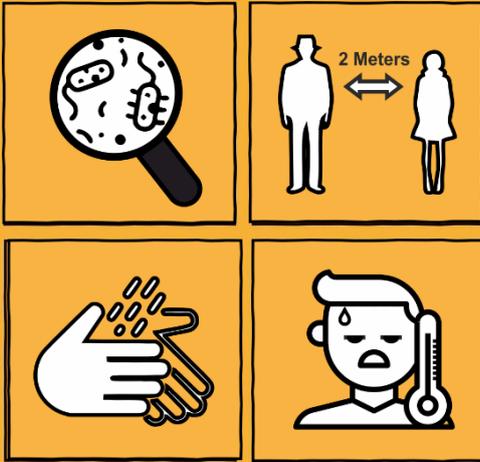


# Groundswell

Out of homelessness



## CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

**Night shelters – communal sharing (in partnership with Housing Justice)**

### What is coronavirus?

Coronavirus or COVID-19 is an illness that can **affect your lungs and airways.**

Symptoms include:

- a high temperature – you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- a new, continuous cough – this means you've started coughing repeatedly
- loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

**You will be asked regularly if you have any of these symptoms** and staff will ask to check your temperature frequently. If you have any health conditions which could make you more vulnerable to COVID-19, please tell the Coordinator so they can make sure being in the shelter is the safest option for you.



Housing Justice



### What should I do if I think I have COVID-19 symptoms?

If you have COVID-19 symptoms (see first page) it is a **legal requirement to self-isolate**. Let staff in your project know if you are feeling unwell and try to avoid engaging with other people. Staff will arrange appropriate medical support and help you to self-isolate.

*This box is to be personalised by the specific project*

- Project coordinator details:
  
- Address:
  
- Phone number:



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**This guidance has been created by Groundswell and Housing Justice.**

@ItsGroundswell / [www.groundswell.org.uk](http://www.groundswell.org.uk)

@Housing\_Justice / [www.housingjustice.org.uk](http://www.housingjustice.org.uk)

## Moving in

- Projects will be operating differently this year due to COVID-19 and limiting the spread of the virus.
- You should have **had a health assessment and shared your contact details before entering the project**. If this has not happened, please let the project coordinator know.

## What happens to my personal information?

- Before you enter the project, you would have shared your contact details. **We may have to share this information with the Local Authority and the NHS for contact tracing purposes and to support the COVID-19 response.**
- Details may only be shared under circumstances of legal or safeguarding activities.

## What about the restrictions on mixing households?

- Within the project, **you will be grouped into households** to limit the spread of the virus. Please check with the project coordinator who is included in your household.
- Due to the high risk of transmission and vulnerability of others, **please do not gather in groups in the project** and contact should be minimised as much as possible
- Guests will not be allowed in the project.

*In deciding what constitutes a household, the key factor is whether residents share living spaces, in particular; bathrooms, toilets, kitchens and sleeping space. Residents who share any of these should be considered as a 'household' and should be considered as a close contact if an individual who shares a household displays COVID-19 symptoms and/or tests positive for COVID-19*

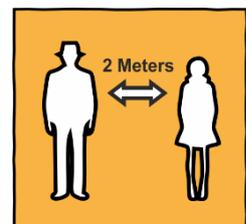
## Mealtimes

- There will be specific guidance about mealtimes in the project.
- During mealtimes, please **only eat within 'household' groups** where possible and maintain social distancing with other guests.

## How can I protect myself and others from COVID-19 whilst staying?

You should follow these steps:

- **Wash your hands with soap and water** often for at least 20 seconds (or the time it takes to sing Happy Birthday twice).  
If there is no soap, talk to a member of staff immediately.
- Always wash your hands when you go in or out of the project.
- **Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve** (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze.
- Put **used tissues in the bin** immediately and wash your hands.
- Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth unless your hands are clean.
- Don't share cigarettes, pipes or drink from the same bottles and cans
- **Face masks must be worn in the project.**
- Please make sure you are **following the social distancing rule** throughout the building. Especially at entrances in communal and shared areas such as toilets, dining areas and smoking areas.



## Other information

- You may be limited to using the same bathroom and kitchen within the project to reduce the spread of the virus.
- The project will let you know about the arrangements for washing facilities.
- We would appreciate if you could clean after yourself and wipe things down when you can.
- You may be asked to enter and leave project at certain times to reduce social contact.