March 19, 2020

To: County and City Partners

Subject: Hygiene Recommendations for People Living Homeless

COVID-19 requires all of us to think differently about how we can tackle big challenges—together.

For the health of our community, we urgently need to minimize the spread of the disease, while also protecting our most vulnerable. People who are homeless are especially vulnerable to COVID-19.

To achieve this balance, the Health Department recommends an immediate increase in sanitation measures for those living homeless. These recommendations align with Housing and Urban Development recommendations for hygiene and sanitation among people living homeless.

- **Increase access to sanitation**, such as portable toilets and handwashing stations, in locations easily accessible to people living homeless throughout Pierce County.
- **Temporarily re prioritize routine encampment disbursals** to reduce the spread of disease.
  - Leaving people in their place (rather than disbursing every day) supports containment of the virus and less disbursement of the virus.
  - In the event of a localized outbreak, it makes it easier to do contact investigations if people are in predictable locations and have not been disbursed.
- **Increase outreach** to support awareness of risks and health resources. Resources specifically for people living homeless are available on our website [www.tpchd.org](http://www.tpchd.org).

We all need to lean in together as a community to address complex problems. Together, all of us can protect the residents of our community who live homeless.

Thank you for your partnership in fighting the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

Sincerely,

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