

PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER

REQUIREMENTS FOR SHELTERING MIGRANT PERSONS IN LOGAN, MORGAN, PHILLIPS, SEDGWICK, WASHINGTON AND YUMA COUNTIES (NORTHEAST REGION OF COLORADO)

The Northeast Colorado Health Department ("NCHD"), hereby issues this Public Health Order setting forth requirements and guidance for entities sending migrant persons to the Northeast Region of Colorado for sheltering. The issuance of this Order is necessary for the preservation of public health, safety, and welfare in the Northeast Region of Colorado.

FINDINGS

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. §§ 25-1-506, 508, and 509, NCHD, its Public Health Director, and its Board of Health ("Board"), within the territorial limits of Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington and Yuma Counties (collectively, the "Northeast Region"), have the duty to:

- Administer and enforce public health laws, orders, rules, and standards;
- Investigate and control the causes of communicable diseases and conditions affecting public health;
- Exercise physical control over property and persons as the agency may find necessary to establish and enforce isolation and quarantine;
- Investigate and abate nuisances when necessary to eliminate sources of communicable diseases and conditions affecting public health;
- Make necessary sanitation and health investigations and inspections for matters affecting public health; and
- Issue orders and adopt rules as the Board, or in the case of a public health emergency, the Public Health Director, may deem necessary for the proper exercise of the powers and duties vested in or imposed upon NCHD or the Board;

WHEREAS, on October 10, 2023, NCHD became aware that the City and County of Denver, with funding in part provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security ("DHS"), Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA"), Shelter and Services Program ("SSP"), was, is, and plans to continue housing migrants outside of its jurisdictional boundaries;

WHEREAS, there is sufficient cause to believe that the City and County of Denver, or an entity acting on their behalf, have housed migrants in facilities located outside of Denver and other government entities within the state may do so in the future;

WHEREAS, migrant persons, primarily asylum seekers, are a particularly vulnerable population because: (1) they have traveled from countries with limited or no access to routine healthcare, including vaccination and chronic disease management, (2) they have traveled for prolonged periods living in settings that lack hygiene and through countries with potential exposure to disease (e.g., person-to-person, intestinal, vector borne.), (3) they are at higher risk for contagious diseases due to unknown or inadequate vaccination status, and (4) they have

experienced significant trauma and social stressors including unstable/no housing and lack of access to food and adequate medical care;

WHEREAS, minor migrant children are particularly vulnerable in these situations and have unique needs including pediatric healthcare, nutrition, and schooling;

WHEREAS, sheltering settings, especially congregate settings in which individuals may be rooming in mixed groups or having meals together in mixed groups, increase communicable disease risk for this particularly vulnerable population;

WHEREAS, sheltering this population may increase demand on public services within the Northeast Region including healthcare and emergency medical services, law enforcement, public health services including communicable disease and emergency preparedness, and schools;

WHEREAS, compliance with existing public health and safety laws and regulations, including communicable disease management and reporting, food service, public accommodations, fire code, building code, and emergency preparedness is particularly important when working with more vulnerable populations;

WHEREAS, the Board will establish a subcommittee to work with county stakeholders to ensure that it has sufficient policies in place to both protect the public health of any migrants housed in the Northeast Region as well as the residents of the Northeast Region; and

WHEREAS, the Northeast Colorado Health Department acknowledges the inherent dignity and human rights of every person, regardless of immigration status.

ORDER

Pursuant to the statutory duties and authorities granted to and/or imposed upon NCHD, its Board, and Public Health Director, the following is ordered in all counties within the NCHD:

I. REQUIRED PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTING TO NCHD

To address potential and actual communicable disease and emergency situations in the Northeast Region, any individual, entity, or organization (each a "Program Operator") sending groups of migrant persons to be temporarily sheltered in facilities in the Northeast Region must provide the following information to NCHD in writing at least 7 days prior to placing any migrant or within 24 hours of being provided notice of a failure to report prior:

1. Personal Information for Each Migrant Person, Including Children, Sheltering in the Northeast Region:

Either, as provided by U.S./Mexico border cities from which migrant person was transferred to Colorado, or as collected by the Program Operator, including:

- 1) Date of arrival in U.S.;
- 2) Date of arrival in State of Colorado;
- 3) Date of arrival in the Northeast Region;

- 4) Anticipated date of departure from the Northeast Region;
- 5) Sheltering facility address and business name;
- 6) First name;
- 7) Last name;
- 8) Spouse/Child;
- 9) Number of travelers in party;
- 10) Date of birth;
- 11) Gender;
- 12) Country of origin;
- 13) Contact information; and
- 14) Any health screening known to be performed within the United States and the results thereof.

2. Information Regarding Facilities Used to Temporarily Shelter Migrant Persons in the Northeast Region

Each Program Operator must submit the following facility information:

- 1) Facility address including municipality and county.
- 2) Facility business name.
- 3) Facility's annual fire inspection report or:
 - i. Total maximum occupancy of facility; and
 - ii. Total maximum occupancy of individual rooms used.
- 4) Number of rooms reserved for migrant persons within the facility.
- 5) Maximum number of migrant persons permitted to shelter at facility at any given time.
- 6) Responsibilities of facility related to health and safety of migrant persons, contractual or otherwise.
- 7) Term of planned or contracted use of facility.
- 8) Copies of any contracts or agreements related to facility use.
- 9) Name and contact information for facility point of contact identified to manage onsite activities.

3. Information Regarding Sheltering Program Parameters by Facility

Program information must include:

- 1) Type of sheltering: Individual/Single Family/Single Group or Mixed Groups.
- 2) Whether minor children will be sheltered at specified facility.
- 3) How meals will be provided to migrant persons and families and by what entities and how often.
- 4) Standard(s) or industry best practices that the Program Operator is using to guide its operations for sheltering migrant persons (*e.g.*, Red Cross, World Health Organization, etc.).
- 5) What rules, if any, migrant persons must comply with to participate (*e.g.*, curfews, prohibition on food in rooms, etc.).

- 6) Responsibilities of the Program Operator related to health and safety of migrant persons, including the provision of first aid, acute health care, and emergent health care.
- 7) Name and contact information for Program Operator health and safety staff responsible at each facility.
- 8) A written plan for alternative sheltering for program participants that must isolate or quarantine if/when a communicable disease is identified.
- 9) A written plan for emergency response in the event of other emergency situations (*e.g.*, weather related incidents, fire, criminal activity, etc.).
- 10) Copies of all relevant contracts or agreements pertinent to the sheltering of migrant persons in the Northeast Region between the Program Operator and other entities (*e.g.*, contracts for sheltering, food service, medical care, transportation, etc.).

4. Information Regarding Program Operational Directives and Operational Periods

- a. Program Operator shall provide NCHD with written operational plans, directives, or other formal organizational communications such as incident action plans, situational reports, or relevant memoranda as established by Program Operator's organizational structure and chain of command. This information will be provided for each given facility's operational period while specifically serving as a temporary shelter for migrants at the request or direction of the Program Operator, to facilitate cross-jurisdictional planning, cooperation, and information sharing.
- b. Program Operator shall attempt to include a representative or liaison from NCHD on relevant operational briefings or other meetings relevant to the Program Operator's command structure to facilitate planning, collaboration, and information sharing.

II. REQUIRED PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITIES

To address potential and actual communicable disease and emergency situations in the Northeast Region, each Program Operator must:

1. Comply with Public Health Reportable Condition Investigation Guidance for all Communicable Reportable Conditions, as outlined by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, whenever a communicable reportable condition is identified.
2. Identify at least one staff member to serve as a point of contact, that will be reachable 24 hours a day and seven days a week, for health and safety situations that may arise and provide contact information for said staff as described above.
3. Have a written plan, as described above, for alternative sheltering for program participants that must isolate or quarantine if/when a communicable disease is identified.

4. Have a written plan, as described above, for emergency response in the event of an emergency situation.

5. Provide instructions to migrant persons regarding what to do in an emergency situation and where and how to seek medical care when needed. These instructions must be provided in a language/manner understandable to migrant persons.

6. Provide transportation to and from medical care for all migrant persons being sheltered within the Northeast Region.

III. REQUIRED AWARENESS OF AND COMPLIANCE WITH ALL LAWS APPLICABLE TO PROGRAM AND FACILITY ACTIVITIES

1. This Order is intended to be and shall be read and construed in concert with and as a supplement to all federal, state and local laws applicable to program and facility activities. All Program Operators and facilities must be aware of and comply with all said laws. To the extent any federal, state, or local laws are more restrictive than what is set forth in this Order, such laws control.

2. Without limiting the foregoing, applicable laws include, but are not limited to:

- a. 42 U.S.C. § 12101, *et seq.* (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990)
- b. C.R.S. §§ 6-25-101- 6-25-113 (Hotels and Restaurants)
- c. C.R.S. §§ 9-1-101- 9-5.7-104 (Safety- Industrial and Commercial-Buildings and Equipment)
- d. C.R.S. §§ 25-4-101- 25-4-112 (Sanitary Regulations)
- e. C.R.S. §§ 25-4-1301- 25-4-1314 (Retail Food Store Sanitation Act)
- f. C.R.S. §§ 25-4-1601- 25-4-1617 (Food Protection Act)
- g. C.R.S. §§ 25-14-201- 25-14-209 (Colorado Clean Indoor Air Act)
- h. 6 CCR 1009-1 (Epidemic and Communicable Disease Control)
- i. 6 CCR 1009-7 (Detection, Monitoring, and Investigation of Environmental and Chronic Disease)
- j. 6 CCR 1010-2 (Retail Food Establishment Regulations)
- k. 6 CCR 1010-14 (Sanitary Public Accommodations)
- l. Any other applicable Public Health Orders
- m. Land Use and Zoning Codes
- n. Building Codes
- o. Fire Codes
- p. Insurance, Permit, and Licensing Requirements

3. Any agreement executed between a Program Operator and a facility must include the requirement to comply with all federal, state and local laws and the Program Operator must provide a copy of this Public Health Order to facility.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Perform Health Screenings of Incoming Migrant Persons Upon Initial Entry into Colorado.
 - a. Tuberculosis (TB) Screening:
 - 1) Clinical evaluation for TB symptoms including: cough lasting longer than 3 weeks, hemoptysis, chest pain, fever, chills, night sweats, weight loss, loss of appetite, weakness, or fatigue.
 - 2) TB testing for persons reporting symptoms. For persons who test positive, perform Chest X-ray to rule out active pulmonary TB.
 - 3) Referral to NCHD for persons with suspect active TB disease.
 - b. Vaccine Preventable Disease Screening: Assess whether migrant person can provide written documentation of having previously received the following vaccinations; or administer:
 - 1) One dose of COVID-19 vaccine
 - 2) One dose of measles-containing vaccine
 - 3) One dose of varicella vaccine
 - 4) One dose of inactivated polio vaccine
 - c. Follow best practice guidance for health screening as provided in [CDC's Refugee Domestic Screening Guidance: Key Considerations and Best Practices](#).
2. Provide Social Services Information to Program Participants by Sharing a Resource Directory for Migrant Persons Seeking Assistance with Legal Matters, Permanent Housing, Mental Health, and Other Social Services.

V. ENFORCEMENT

It is unlawful for any person to willfully violate, disobey, or disregard this Order. NCHD will attempt to seek voluntary compliance through education, technical assistance, and warning notices. However, this Order may be enforced by any appropriate legal means and any person who does not comply may be subject to the penalties provided in C.R.S. § 25-1-516. In addition, NCHD may seek a court order in Colorado state district court to enforce this Order and/or to restrain or enjoin any violation of this Order.

VI. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This is an interim Public Health Order to be effective from the date of adoption until December 31, 2024, unless rescinded or extended by the Board, with the intent that it will revisit this order prior to its expiration. If you have questions or concerns regarding this Order, please contact NCHD at 970-522-3741.

**DONE AND SIGNED, as the official Order of the NCHD on the 14th day of March, 2024,
under the authorization and direction of the NCHD Board of Health.**



**Patrica McClain
Public Health Director
Northeast Colorado Health Department**