



SAFETY IN TEMPORARY SPACES

Much of the guidance here comes from (to access this information click here) [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) recommendations for shelters](#)



Cleaning of Mattresses

The CDC recommends steam cleaning of mattresses to sterilise for COVID-19. Mattresses that have been received as a donation should ideally be steam-cleaned where possible before being used by clients/guests. If a steam cleaner is available in the space, daily steam cleaning of mattresses is recommended. It is advised not to shake mattresses before cleaning as this could increase the spread of COVID-19. If steam cleaning is not possible and the mattress is washable, it is advised to wash the mattress prior to use.

If a steam cleaner is not available, we would advise covering mattresses with plastic before use, with a sheet over that so it's more comfortable. The sheet could be washed daily with the laundry and the plastic covering wiped thoroughly daily as with other surfaces ([find link to guidelines](#)). It's important to mention that we could not find any official advice for COVID-19-safe disinfecting of mattresses and that plastic + sheet is next best an alternative suggestion is based on our own knowledge and suggestion.



Sleeping Arrangements

CDC guidance suggests keeping beds/mattresses at least 1m apart (2m if possible) and encouraging people to sleep head to toe.



Partition between beds should be decided on a case by case basis. It's important to recognise that in some instances, partitions may become a potential source of COVID transmission, and people may feel isolated from one another. In other instances, people may prefer some privacy and partitions may be indicated. Where partitions are used, avoid using plastic or other materials that can't be washed easily, and safely. One option would be to create partitions between beds by nailing a string from wall to wall and hanging a sheet, for example.



Laundry

Do laundry at the warmest setting possible with normal detergent and let laundry dry thoroughly before using again. Do not shake laundry items before washing them as this could spread COVID-19.

Where possible, people doing the laundry should wear single use gloves and an apron to protect themselves from possible infection with COVID-19.



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General Cleaning

Follow good practises for general cleaning as much as possible. Clean surfaces daily following the [CTT Guidance for cleaning of surfaces with a diluted bleach solution](#). Surfaces that are touched frequently could be cleaned more often - up to every 1 or 2 hours.

Make sure to follow safety precautions when using the diluted bleach solution.



Handwashing Stations

Provide disposable tissue and plastic lined dustbins for drying hands after washing.

If disposable paper is not available, provide individual hand towels to each guest.

If handwashing is not possible, provide alcohol based hand sanitiser (at least 60% alcohol) at strategic points (entrances and exits, bathrooms, food collection/eating areas).

If handwashing stations with piped water are not available, tippy taps could be constructed - see [CTT Guidance](#)



Sterile Delivery / Receiving of Donations

People making donations should try as far as possible to adhere to CTT Guidance for cleaning items safely for donation. People receiving donations should double check with the person making the donation that the donations have been properly sterilised and try not to accept donations that have not been. While this is a very difficult choice, it's important to keep the space COVID-19 free over the longer term.



Screening and Detecting COVID-19

Where possible screen for symptoms of COVID-19 before your guest starts using the space. See CTT Guidance for symptoms of COVID-19. People who are showing symptoms of COVID-19 should and try to keep people that may have COVID-19 and uninfected people in a separate area.



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Masks

A large proportion of people that are transmitting the virus might not be showing symptoms so it's really important that everyone in the space is wearing masks at all times.

This doesn't protect one from getting COVID-19, but rather provides some protection from spreading it.



Whenever possible everyone either using or volunteering in the shelter should be wearing a fabric mask (not a surgical mask or a N95 mask as these need to be kept for healthcare workers). See [CTT Guidance](#) for mask making and wearing. Where possible each person should have two (or more) masks each so they can be washed daily at least.

Provide surgical masks for those with COVID-19 symptoms if possible.



Social Distancing

Promote **social distancing of 2m** where possible: no handshakes, no hugs, no close-up conversations.

If guests need to stand in lines, ensure distancing by using tape on the floor as guidance.

Use individually packaged meals if possible. If not, stagger mealtimes so that large numbers are not congregating and waiting in lines at the same time.

I've seen a suggestion for housing less than 50 people per site and that the site should have 10m² per person



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