

EVALUATING, CHOOSING, AND PLANNING EMERGENCY SHELTERS



LOCATION

Select a shelter facility that is safe - away from coastal plains, not prone to high winds, landslides, nor threat from falling trees, powerlines and away from hazardous materials

DEMOGRAPHICS

Consider demographics at the shelter i.e. gender, age, persons with special needs, when planning

PETS

Provide temporary housing for displaced pets away from persons housed in mass shelter zones

PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Ensure persons with special needs can safely access the facility

Make special provisions to protect persons with cognitive challenges and mental health impairments to prevent discrimination and stigmatisation

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Work closely with Disaster Management agencies and protective services to ensure compliance with and enforcement of shelter rules and the rule of law

Ensure there are systems in place to identify legitimate shelter occupants and staff

CHILDREN

Provide safe spaces for children to play, sleep, and bath, that is separate from strangers

PERSONAL EFFECTS

Carefully manage personal effects brought to the shelter by shelter occupants

Encourage community education on how to prepare for sheltering during emergencies

LENGTH OF STAY

15

Plan adequately for short-, intermediate-, and long-term shelter stays

GENDER

Ensure safe and secure facilities for residents, staff, visitors and especially vulnerable groups - women, girls, and trans-gender persons

Ensure sanitary facilities and access to adequate safe sanitary supplies for pregnant, nursing, and menstruating persons

PREVENTION OF TRANSMISSION OF COVID-19 IN SHELTERS



Prevention of transmission of COVID-19 begins before admission, and continues until after occupants and staff have left and the facility is cleaned and disinfected.

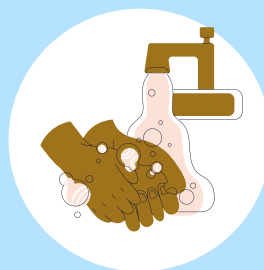
• BEFORE A DISASTER



Ensure adequate supply of potable water to meet the capacity at shelter and identify alternate sources for shelter operation



Monitor rodent activity and use Integrated Pest Management Strategies to control pests



Ensure shelter amenities, including hand washing facilities and toilets, are functioning and with adequate supplies



Evaluate the shelter and conduct Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) 3 months before the shelter is occupied and eliminate all mosquito breeding grounds

• DURING A DISASTER



Encourage all persons to follow prevention practices, e.g. cleaning, sanitising, physical distancing, hand hygiene, wearing PPE*

PPE- Personal Protective Equipment



Manage staff wellbeing and have a back-up plan for absent staff



Designate a public health worker or trained staff to perform screening of shelter occupants, visitors, and staff



Schedule regular cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces, including fabrics and other soft surfaces



Handle dirty linen, curtains, towels, clothes according to safe routine procedures



Monitor stored potable water for proper quality and safety



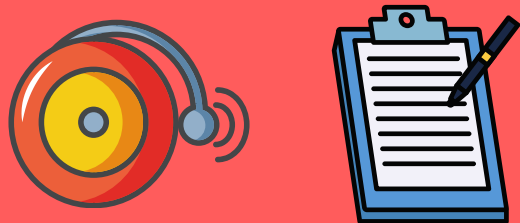
Monitor daily activities to prevent conditions that attract mosquitoes, rodents and pests inside and outside the shelter



Separate infectious/potentially infectious garbage and store safely away from humans or animals; dispose of waste according to local guidelines

MANAGING ILLNESS AT THE SHELTER

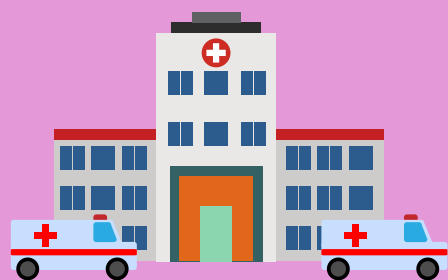
Develop an Emergency Shelter COVID-19 Outbreak Response Plan with relevant staff and stakeholders



Manage any staff member or shelter occupant with new COVID-19 symptoms at the shelter, through immediate isolation, and quarantine close contacts



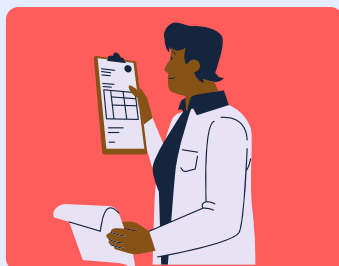
Identify health facilities where persons with COVID-19 can seek medical care if needed



Provide various levels of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) to balance overall wellbeing of shelter occupants and staff



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SHELTER MANAGERS IN PLANNING FOR MHPSS SERVICES IN SHELTERS



Ensure mental health providers are involved in the planning of shelter services



Orientate all shelter staff and volunteers to mental health issues they may experience during emergencies



Arrange for training of shelter staff in the provision of psychosocial first aid and to identify signs and symptoms of mental illness



Roster mental health service provider to provide in-person visit to shelter or/and referral to treatment facility



Ensure the availability and access to essential medicines for persons with existing mental health conditions



Ensure access for staff to mental health services

INFORMATION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC: WHAT TO DO IF SEEKING SHELTER IN COVID-19 TIMES



• BEFORE YOU GO



Stay informed on how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected emergency preparedness and response planning in your area



Pay attention to local guidance for evacuations and shelters as these may change



Know where the nearest emergency shelter is located



Pack a form of identification



Create a family-sized emergency supply kit or a “go bag” for family members
Include personal supplies, prescribed medicines, disinfectant, soap, hand sanitiser, face masks (at least two per person)



Pack essential documents in a clear plastic bag that is waterproof

• AT THE SHELTER



Follow instructions of shelter staff



Read and obey signs and comply with physical distancing requirements



Practice hand hygiene, wear face covering and follow good hygiene habits



Clean up after yourself, store and dispose of personal rubbish appropriately



Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces in your designated area (tables, chairs, cots, luggage)