



Multnomah  
County

## JOINT OFFICE OF HOMELESS SERVICES

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November 20, 2020

Dear referring partners,

Earlier this year, Multnomah County opened two Voluntary Isolation Motels (VIMo) to help temporarily house people who are sick with COVID-19, so they have a comfortable place to recover and are less likely to spread the virus to others living in congregate settings or camps.

As the number of people needing this isolation support opportunity has grown, we must ensure rooms are available for people who have COVID-19.

Starting Wednesday, November 4th, Multnomah County Public Health began testing everyone referred into the VIMos who hadn't already been recently tested.

The following is a list of testing-related expectations that guests must sign upon arrival at the VIMo. We greatly appreciate your assistance in messaging expectations, particularly around testing, as this is a change in practice.

For a guest who is housed at the VIMo because they're ill:

- If a guest is waiting on a pending result from a recent test, the public health staff will track the result.
- If a guest who has not yet been tested misses the first regular testing opportunity for any reason, they will be provided with one more opportunity to be tested. **If the guest misses this second opportunity to be tested, they will not be able to stay in the VIMo, and will be exited the following day.**
- If a guest's test result comes back negative, Multnomah County will support guests returning to their congregate setting of origin the following morning.
- If a guest's test result is positive, they can stay at the VIMo until they are no longer infectious.

People who are at the VIMo because they are in quarantine as close contacts to an infected person will still need to quarantine 14 days from the last time they were around the infected person regardless of test results. People in quarantine cannot go back to a congregate setting during the 14 day quarantine period.

Multnomah County will request a guest sign a Release of Information (ROI) to share any health related information necessary to help coordinate care and return to a program, or movement into another program. Multnomah County can communicate with a referring congregate setting if and when it will be safe to have a guest return to the setting. If a guest is exited from the VIMo

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early due to refusal to test, but Multnomah County Public Health has not been able to confirm absence of COVID-19 infection, we can notify you of the date by which the guest should no longer be infectious if they were to have been sick with COVID-19 (usually 10 days after symptoms begin).

We expect that you also have a ROI in place on your end before calling our intake staff, because they will ask for information about current health status, testing, status, ability to independently handle activities of daily living (ADLs), etc. If you are an addictions treatment provider with extra confidentiality considerations, our team will follow the appropriate practice of acquiring written ROI in the case that we need to share protected information with other service providers to coordinate care.

We would like to provide isolation support for every person who feels ill, but that is unfortunately not something we can offer and it is not what the VIMOs are designed to provide. We appreciate your understanding and assistance with the implementation of this policy.

Sincerely,

**Katie Chickadonz**  
(they/them)

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