

# Yakima County Homeless Coalition

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

MARCH 17, 2020

## Introductions

Wait to be  
unmuted

Share your name  
and organization

## Approval of Minutes

Motion:

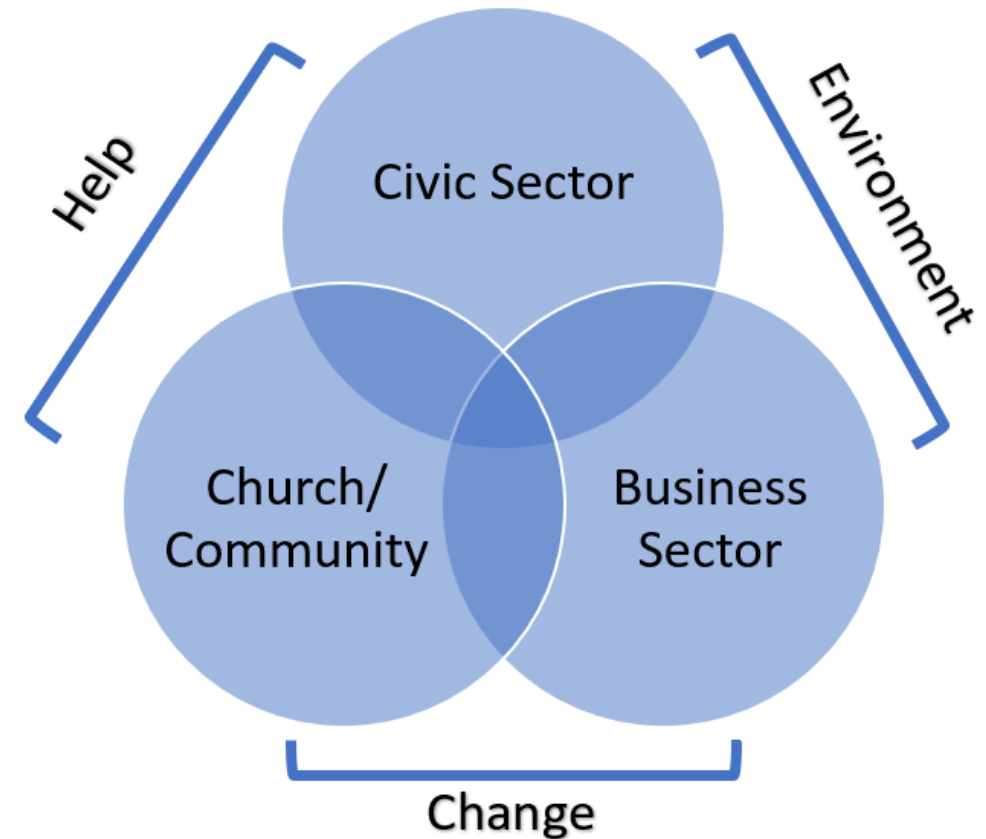
*“I move to approve the minutes from the November 11, 2019 YHC Executive Committee Meeting.”*

# YHC Executive Committee Update

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## Goals for 2020

- Required by RCW
- Identified in Charter
- Identified by YHC members



Graphic from Mike Johnson, YUGM

# COVID-19

When you are experiencing homelessness, how do you:

- Stay home?
- Wash your hands?
- Distance yourself from others?
- Disinfect your living space?

**FEVER**



These  
symptoms  
may appear  
**2-14 days**  
after exposure

# COVID-19 Symptoms

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**SHORTNESS  
OF BREATH**



**COUGH**



# Prevention Strategies

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There is currently **no vaccine to prevent coronavirus**. The best way to prevent illness is to **avoid being exposed to the virus**.

- Clean your hands often
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth
- Avoid close contact
- Stay home if you are sick
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Wear a facemask if you are sick or if you are caring for someone who is sick
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily

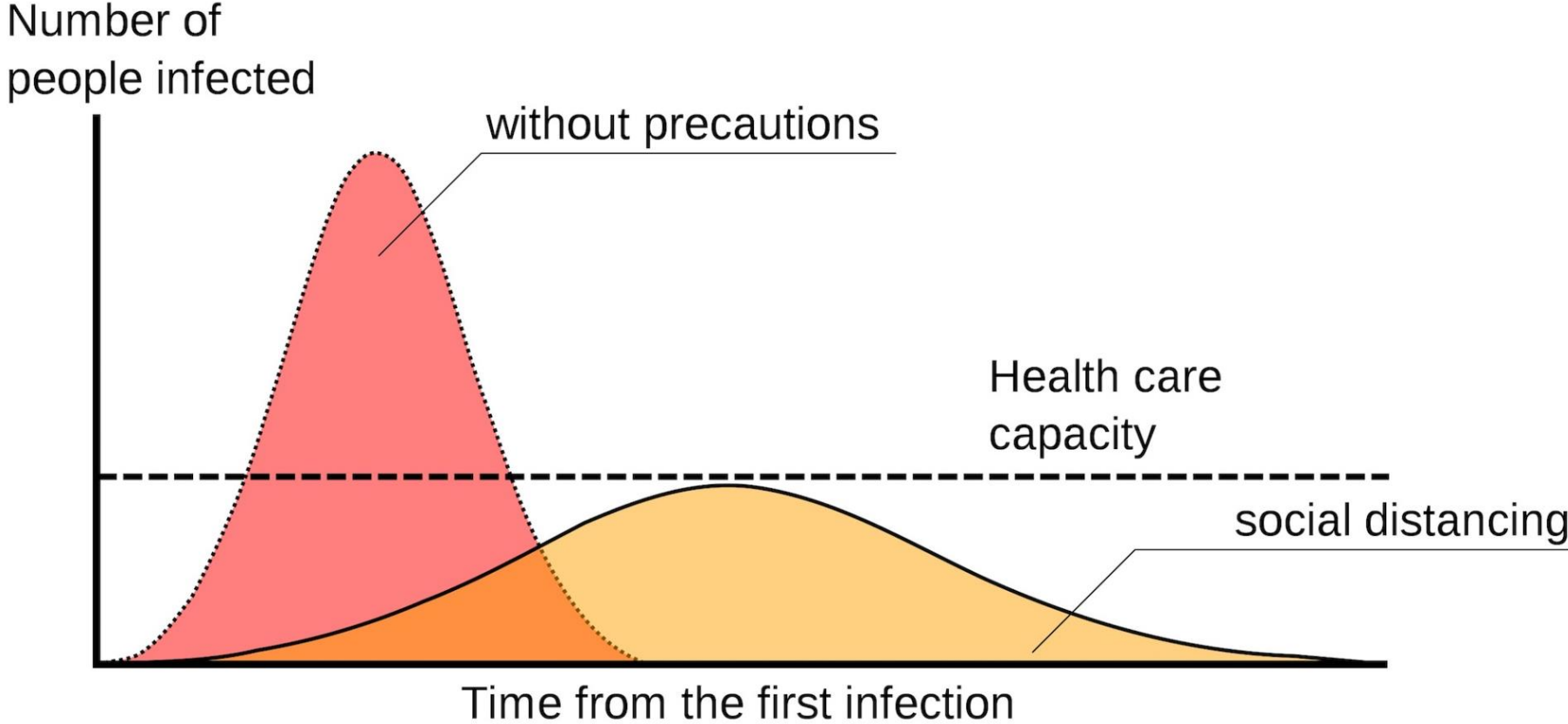
# Social Distancing

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**This video was created  
from information on  
[www.washingtonpost.com/  
graphics/2020/world/  
corona-simulator](http://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/world/corona-simulator)  
March 14, 2020**



# Flattening the Curve



# High Risk Populations



Older adults



People who have serious chronic medical conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, lung disease



People experiencing homelessness

# Why Homeless Populations are a High-Risk Group

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## Poor health

High rates of chronic medical conditions, behavioral health conditions, acute illness, disabilities, and exposure to elements



## Congregate settings

Shelters, public transportation, meal programs, health clinics, food banks, and many other services venues where this population receives care



## Aging population

The Yakima County 2019 PIT report showed that 23% of people experiencing homelessness were over the age of 55



## Limited ability to follow public health advice

The prevailing public health advice to wash hands, stay at home, and maintain physical distance from others is often not possible for people experiencing homelessness



## Stigma and discrimination

People experiencing homelessness often struggle to access housing, medical care, and even bathrooms due to stigma and discrimination

# Recommended Actions for Providers

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- Increase hand sanitation, especially by entrances, food, and communal gathering areas
- Increase janitorial services and sanitize, sanitize, sanitize
- Dispense information to clients to answer questions, promote prevention strategies, and quell fears
- Remind people not to share drinks/cigarettes, etc.
- Encourage clients to communicate to staff if they develop a cough or don't feel well
- Monitor clients for symptoms, take temperature checks if possible
- Clients who have respiratory symptoms should be asked to wear a mask
- Beds should be kept at least 6 feet apart
- Wash laundry and bedding
- Have staff wear disposable gloves when handling belongings
- Provide plastic-lined wastebaskets for used tissues and masks

Based on guidance from YNHS and King County

# Recommended Actions for Local Response Systems

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1. Identify appropriate isolation/quarantine venues:
2. Prevent loss of housing and healthcare services
3. Expand shelter capacity and deliver services to unsheltered populations
4. Ensure providers have supplies and protective equipment
5. Expand medical respite care programs

The Department of Commerce has issued about \$600,000 to Yakima County for COVID-19 Response. Yakima County, the City of Yakima, and the Health District will be responsible for making an action plan for spending the funding.

# Provider Feedback

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- What are providers doing?
- What are providers hearing?
- YNHS receiving reports that people experiencing homelessness are also seeing a reduction in positive interactions with the public (i.e. on the street donations, use of public restrooms)

# RFP

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The RFP is scheduled to open tomorrow: **Wednesday March, 18<sup>th</sup>**



Application must be submitted online, through the WizeHive Portal



There will be a document released tomorrow explaining the application and the funds

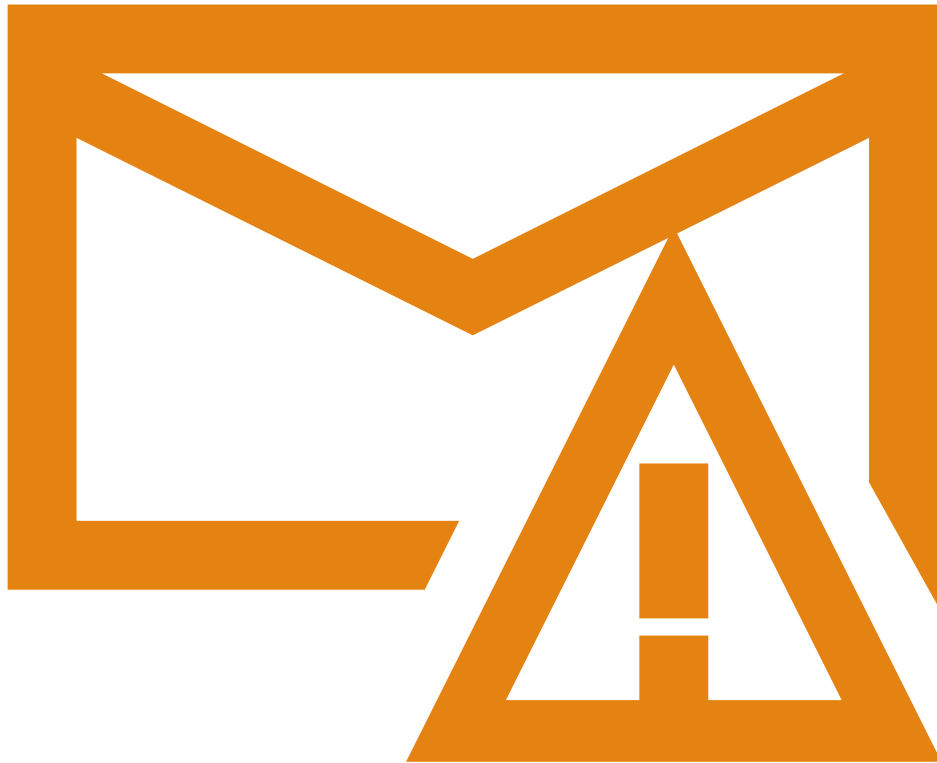
# CPSC

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Application for the CPSC has been extended, as all of the positions have not yet been filled.

Please email interest in volunteering to: [Human.Services@co.yakima.wa.us](mailto:Human.Services@co.yakima.wa.us)





# Questions?

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Please contact us at  
[Human.Services@co.yakima.wa.us](mailto:Human.Services@co.yakima.wa.us)