Homeless Services COVID-19 Update for March 31, 2020

Below is the most recent list of closures and alterations available as of Tuesday, March 31, 2020 at 3 PM. If you have any updates or additions to this document, please email Michelle McCarthy at mmccarthy@cambridgema.gov. If you have fliers or other information about your project, please send them to me and I will include them with this daily email.

Isolation & Quarantine Sites

**War Memorial:** The City will be opening the War Memorial building as a site for homeless members of the community to isolate and quarantine. More information will be provided when it becomes available. In the meantime here is a statement from the City Manager: https://www.cambridgema.gov/covid19/News/2020/03/statementonemergencyshelter

**Shelters**

**240 Albany Street:** As of Monday, March 16, 2020 shelter capacity will be 95 beds with no ability to add overflow beds. The shelter is working to place guests in the same bed every night and has taken other precautions to encourage social distancing. The shelter will set up a temporary isolation room for guests presenting with symptoms. Guest can remain in isolation temporarily until a more appropriate facility is identified.

Shelter will be putting tents out back to distribute meals and allow people to distance themselves at mealtimes.

**First Church Shelter:** As of Monday, March 16, 2020 the shelter is operating at full capacity with no plans to reduce capacity.

**Heading Home:** As of Tuesday, March 17, 2020 the shelter is operating at full capacity with no plans to reduce services or capacity. The shelter is allowing guests to stay in during the day because of lack of daytime resources at this time. The shelter will fill vacancies as they become available, but stays are not being capped at this time.

**Hildebrand Family Shelter:** As of Monday, March 16, 2020 Hildebrand is operating at regular capacity. DHCD has stated that it wants shelters to be flexible in reducing capacity to reduce density or to reserve space for a quarantined household so Hildebrand may reduce capacity at some point.

**Harvard Square Homeless Shelter:** As of Sunday, March 22, 2020 HSHS has closed. Guests with items stored at HSHS should contact Matias (matias@pbha.org) for more information.

**On the Rise:** As of Tuesday, March 24, 2020 OTR staff will be on site from 10 AM – 12PM Monday – Friday to distribute mail only. There will no longer be meal distribution and guest can no longer access the building. On per week on Wednesday, guest may access their lockers one person at a time between 10 AM and 12 PM. Advocates remain available full time by phone.

**St. Pat’s:** As of Wednesday, March 18, 2020 capacity has been reduced from 32 to 27 to provide additional space for guests. Guests who were in the shelter last Monday were given a bed for a week to be extended week by week leaving four beds available. Once those beds are filled St Pat’s anticipates that all women in the shelter will be there for the duration.
Transiton House: As of Tuesday, March 17, 2020 the shelter is open and operating at capacity and the 24/7 hotline is operating as normal. Staff are on site to support the shelter, but in a reduced capacity to encourage social distancing. T House would like providers to know that DV only increases when people are quarantined and isolated and encourages providers to listen for increases in violence and risk. Please call 857-777-6724 for crisis intervention and safety planning.

Cambridge Warming Center: As of Tuesday, March 17, 2020 the warming center is open and capacity has been reduced to 35 to allow for social distancing.

Salvation Army: As of Friday, March 14, 2020 the shelter is no longer allowing anyone who does not already have a bed to stay in the shelter. All shelter stays are extended indefinitely and until further notice. As of Friday, March 20, 2020 guests will only be allowed to leave the building for work.

The drop-in center will only be open to shelter clients and will close early every day for more intense cleaning. Lunch will be provided at the door during normal lunch times.

Breakfast and dinner will only be provided to shelter and Umoja clients. All shelter and Umoja clients will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms prior to being allowed in the building.

Y2Y: As of Tuesday, March 31, 2020 Y2Y remains open. Capacity is 18 guests.

Youth on Fire: As of Tuesday, March 17, 2020 Youth on Fire is closed. Staff will continue to work with clients remotely when possible.

YWCA Family Shelter: As of Tuesday, March 17, 2020, the shelter is operating at regular capacity but without house meetings, events, or activities. DHCD has stated that it wants shelters to be flexible in reducing capacity to reduce density or to reserve space for a quarantined household so the YWCA may reduce capacity at some point.

Street Outreach Programs

Bridge Over Troubled Waters Medical Van: As of Wednesday, March 18, 2020, the medical van is in Harvard Square every weeknight from 7-8/8:30. Staff are allowing only one client in the van at a time and limiting their time in the van to 10 minutes.

First Step: As of Sunday, March 22, 2020 First Step is operating from Monday – Friday from 4 PM – 8 PM mainly to check on street sleepers. First Step is not offering transport at this time.

Permanent Supportive Housing Programs

AIDS Action Committee/Fenway Health: As of Tuesday, March 17, 2020 all offices are closed to the public and staff are working remotely.

Heading Home: As of Thursday, March 19, 2020 all offices are closed to the public and staff are working remotely. All congregate sites remain staffed.

HomeStart: As of Monday, March 16, 2020, HomeStart offices are closed to the public through Tuesday, April 7, 2020. Staff will be working remotely during that time. No new client intakes will be made while the office remains closed to the public.
**Just A Start:** As of Tuesday, March 17, 2020 JAS offices are closed to the public and staff are working remotely.

**Transition House:** As of Tuesday, March 17, 2020 PSH and RRH staff are working remotely. Clients can receive support by phone and video chat.

**Vinfen:** No updates as of Monday, March 23, 2020.

**Other Programs & Information**

**Cambridge Multiservice Center for the Homeless:** As of Monday, March 16, 2020 the MSC is closed. People seeking assistance can call 617-349-6340 to be connected to a case manager who will work with clients by phone.

**Cambridge Coordinated Access Program:** As of Monday, March 16, 2020 Intakes and assessments are suspended. Normal operations will resume once the MSC is open again.

**PATH Program (Eliot Community Human Services):** As of Wednesday, March 18, 2020 the PATH is doing sporadic outreach to street-sleepers. They are not going on-site to shelters of officers. PATH workers remain available to clients by phone.

**Cambridge Public Library:** Closed until further notice.

**Food for Free:** As of Monday, March 16, 2020, FFF will be delivering food to senior housing complexes in bags that are delivered directly to apartments.

**Central Square BID/Hand Washing:** As of Friday, March 13, 2020, installed three public handwashing stations. One is at Carol Barron Plaza, one is at the needle exchange, and one is at the warming center.

Central Square BID has also created a flier about preventing the spread of COVID-19. It is attached.

**Cambridge Housing Authority:** Closed to the public until further notice. Will be conducting as much as possible by phone.

**MDOT:** As of Tuesday, March 17, 2020 MDOT is not conducting formal outreach.

**Cambridge Public Health Department:** Mary Kowalczuk mkowalczuk@challiance.org the Cambridge Public Health Department Contact for homeless serving organizations wishing to access resources and information from that department. If someone is symptomatic call the 211 hotline for more guidance. Always call 911 in the case of a life-threatening emergency.

City of Cambridge COVID-19 website: [https://www.cambridgema.gov/covid19](https://www.cambridgema.gov/covid19)


If you would like to receive direct COVID-19 email updates from the city, click here.

**Meal Programs & Food Pantries:** As of Thursday, March 19, 2020 (please see Salvation Army, On The Rise, and 240 Albany street for additional information about meals)

**St. James Helping Hand Food Pantry:** Uncertain if April food pantry will be operational.
**Margret Fuller House:** Food pantry is open is maintaining their normal operational hours.

**CEOC:** Food pantry is not open to the public but the program is actively working to have bagged food delivered to pantry clients or to participate in picking up food from location(s) to be determined. Call CEOC for more information.

**Friday Café:** Offering bagged lunches at First Church from 1PM-3PM.

**St. Paul’s Parish:** Still planning to operate on Saturday mornings but possibly without produce (non-perishables only).

**Christ Church:** Offering bagged meals on Thursdays beginning at 5 PM.

**Material Aid and Advocacy Program:** Will provide bagged meals on Tuesdays and Thursday 9 AM – 3 PM

See flier attached for additional resources.

**Needle Exchange:** As of Thursday, March 19, 2020 Fenway Health/AAC is operating the needle exchange as an outreach program only as offices are closed to the public. Those interested can call or text based on their neighborhood to connect with an outreach worker. People in Porter and Alewife can call/text 617-470-0994. People in Harvard and Central can call/text 617-470-5369. People in Kendall can call/text 857-228-4658. Hours are 9 AM – 4 PM.

**Harvard Square Handwashing:** As of Tuesday, March 24, 2020 Harvard Square Business Association was in the process of identifying location in which to install handwashing sites. More information to come. Disregard early updates stating that handwashing stations were installed.

**Material Aid and Advocacy Program:** As of Monday, March 23, 2020 MAAP is providing basic survival supplies, phone charging, meals, and snacks from a tent set up outside of their location on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 AM – 3 PM.

**Information current as of Tuesday, March 31, 2020 at 3:00 PM. Previous documents are no longer up to date.**