

PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER
PURSUANT TO INDIANA CODE § 16-20-1-25 AND THE CODE OF THE
HEALTH AND HOSPITAL CORPORATION OF MARION COUNTY,
ARTICLE 7, SECTION 5

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and to protect the health and safety of the members of the Indianapolis community experiencing homelessness, I hereby order the following, effective immediately:

1. All homeless shelters and other facilities offering accommodation to individuals experiencing homelessness in Marion County should, in cooperation with City and County authorities and the Marion County Emergency Operations Center, ensure that non-congregate housing is available to homeless members of the community who are particularly affected by or vulnerable to COVID-19.
2. Specifically, non-congregate housing should be made available to individuals experiencing homelessness who cannot safely find accommodation in existing congregate settings or in unsheltered environments, either because of the health risk to themselves or the public health risk to others. Application of this Order includes, but is not limited to, the following groups:
 - a. Individuals experiencing homelessness who have tested positive for COVID-19 or who are suspected COVID-19 patients;
 - b. Individuals experiencing homelessness who have been tested for COVID-19 and are awaiting test results;
 - c. Individuals experiencing homelessness who have recovered from, or are recovering from, COVID-19 who, in the judgment of a medical professional, should not return to a congregate setting or to an unsheltered environment; and
 - d. Individuals experiencing homelessness who are not displaying COVID-19 symptoms, but who are at high risk for severe illness resulting from COVID-19 based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other guidance. High-risk characteristics include, but are not limited to, the following:

- i. 60 years of age or older;
 - ii. Chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma;
 - iii. Serious heart conditions;
 - iv. Immunocompromised status (which may be caused by cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and/or prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications);
 - v. Severe obesity (BMI of 40 or higher);
 - vi. Diabetes;
 - vii. Chronic kidney disease and undergoing dialysis, and/or
 - viii. Liver disease.
- 3. The State of Indiana, Department of Homeland Security, has received approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Public Assistance, Category B reimbursement of expenses for non-congregate housing necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Marion County Emergency Operations Center, the City of Indianapolis's Office of Public Health and Safety, and the Marion County Public Health Department are directed to make arrangements for non-congregate housing, consistent with the terms of that federal-state agreement, for individuals described in Paragraphs 1 and 2 above. Specifically, the City and County agencies are directed to:
 - a. Identify suitable facilities for non-congregate housing, such as hotels, apartments, or dormitories;
 - b. Arrange for accurate identification of individuals experiencing homelessness who are in need of non-congregate housing, and keep accurate records of such identification, by means of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) or similar system;
 - c. Arrange for transportation to non-congregate housing;
 - d. Provide food and other necessities for individuals experiencing homelessness who are provided accommodation in non-congregate settings;
 - e. Arrange for staffing necessary at such facilities for safety, security, and health of all residents; and
 - f. Cooperate with shelters and with service providers who conduct outreach in unsheltered environments to ensure that all individuals experiencing homelessness who qualify for non-congregate housing under this Order, and who wish to be provided such housing, can be relocated as promptly as possible.

This Order will remain in effect until rescinded, or until the state of disaster emergency due to COVID-19 in Marion County ends, whichever comes first. This Order is issued pursuant to Indiana Code § 16-20-1-25 and the Code of the Health and Hospital Corporation of Marion County, Article 7, Section 5.

Virginia A. Caine, M.D.

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Director and Chief Medical Officer