

Sacramento County Health Center
H8CCS34058-01-00
Activity Overview

Overview:

The Sacramento County Health (SCHC) is very active in the effort to prevent and respond to the novel Coronavirus pandemic. From late January through mid-March, SCHC focused on preparing for COVID-19. Since March 19, when the first US case attributed to community spread was admitted to a hospital just blocks from the health center's location, we have been actively responding to the pandemic as well.

One of SCHC's strategies to prevent viral transmission has been to separate patients with signs of possible infection from others. SCHC screens all patients for symptoms of the novel Coronavirus infection one to two days prior to their appointment, and again prior to entry to the health center to control possible spread of the virus and to ensure adequate care. Staff call patients one to two days prior to their appointments and screen them for novel Coronavirus symptoms. When the screen reveals one or more symptoms, a Registered Nurse conducts triage over the phone. Patient who meet the criteria for evaluation or testing for COVID-19 are brought to the health center, but seen in the Mobile Medical Shelter (MMS) that we have set up in the parking lot. In addition to this type of diversion, patients and visitors are screened before they enter the health center for COVID-19 related symptoms. Patients with positive screens then triaged by a Registered Nurse. The RN, as described above, may then create an appointment for the patient to be seen in the MMS for evaluation by a provider and/or testing by an RN. Staffing and maintaining the tent has taken many health center resources. SCHC is working with county-approved vendors to contract for two full-time RNs to backfill for staff who are working in as triage RNs and testing RNs.

Activities Retroactive to January 20:

None will be charged to this grant.

Activities After Award Granted:

Prevention activities that SCHC is carrying out include screening all patients and potential visitors prior to appointments and diverting individuals with COVID-19 compatible symptoms to the MMS for evaluation and/or testing.

Response activities that SCHC is conducting include evaluating patients suspicious for COVID-19 infection and testing those that fit the algorithm.

SCHC is contracting for two FTE RNs to back-fill staff engaged in these important activities.

Future Intended Activities:

SCHC intends to continue these activities and to expand testing as capacity grows. SCHC will rely on temporary staff, including Registered Nurses, to be able to carry out these activities in addition to normal clinical operations.