

Sacramento County Health Center
H8DCS35553-01-00
Activity Overview

Overview:

The Sacramento County Health (SCHC) has been very active in the effort to prevent and respond to the novel Coronavirus pandemic. Since the first US case attributed to community spread was admitted to a hospital just blocks from the health center's location on March 19, we have been actively preparing for and responding to the pandemic.

SCHC has worked with the local Medical and Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC) to obtain and set up a Mobile Medical Shelter, along with ancillary pop up tents, portable toilet, and handwashing station, in the parking lot to safely evaluate and test patients suspicious for novel Coronavirus infection. Staffing and maintaining the tent has taken many health center resources.

Activities Retroactive to January 20

The activities that the Sacramento County Health Center (SCHC) carried out for COVID-19 between January 20 and March 31, 2020 included those in the categories of

Safety and prevention

- 1) Posting infection control messages (e.g. cough, respiratory and hand hygiene) and COVID-19 informational signage throughout the clinic;
- 2) Purchasing stand-alone mask, tissue and hand sanitizer stations for the health center;
- 3) Purchasing PPE;
- 4) Contracting with a vendor to conduct rapid fit-testing of staff;
- 5) Refreshing training for staff on standard, airborne and droplet precautions, as well as donning and doffing of PPE
- 6) Creating and modifying protocols, aligned with evolving recommendations, regarding use of cleaning and disinfection, screening patients prior to entry into the health center, selection and use of proper PPE for different classifications and tasks; and
- 7) Converting medical visits for non-urgent purposes to phone visits.

Response

- 1) Working through the MHOAC to obtain and set up a Mobile Medical Shelter for conducting evaluation and testing of suspected COVID patients;
- 2) Purchasing of pop-up tents for drive-up testing for COVID-19; and
- 3) Contracting for portable toilet, handwashing station, generator and 24/7 security for the MMS;

Maintain and enhance capacity

- 1) Arranging for employees who can perform their duties off site to telecommute;
- 2) Assigning staff to COVID-19 prevention and control activities such as screening patients before entering the health center, diverting patients from in person to telehealth visits, and conducting triage; and
- 3) Backfilling staff positions by contracting for temporary personnel.

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After Award Granted

Since the award, SCHC has evaluated dozens of patients in the MMS and tested more than 70 for COVID-19, three of whom have tested positive. SCHC has enhanced telephone triage capacity, text monitoring systems, videoconference, and brought on additional providers and other clinical and administrative support personnel.

Future

SCHC plans to continue to expand evaluation and testing capacity. Securing appropriate PPE remains a priority, and SCHC is facing rising prices for these supplies, when they can be located. SCHC also intends to enhance the ability of staff to telecommute to perform essential health center functions. Moreover, SCHC intends to enhance telehealth infrastructure to perform triage, care, and follow-up via telehealth, including with patients in their homes, and, if possible, at a center serving individuals with unstable or no housing.