

# HOUSING FOR THE HARVEST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## About the Housing for the Harvest Program

### What is Housing for the Harvest?

Housing for the Harvest is a program that provides temporary, emergency non-congregate shelter for critical employees in the food and agriculture sector who have tested positive or have been exposed to COVID-19. Temporary, emergency non-congregate shelter means a safe place for a person to stay for a short period of time to prevent contact with other people. The program is run in partnership by the State, County or City agencies, and local organizations.

### Why am I being offered this room?

You are being offered a room in a hotel or motel because you have tested positive or have been exposed to COVID-19 and you cannot safely isolate at home.

### Will I have to pay for the hotel/motel?

No. You will not be charged for your stay in the hotel. The hotel room, food, laundry service and other supports are being provided to you free of charge.

### How will I get food?

You will receive three meals a day delivered to your room. The food you receive may not be what you normally eat when you are home, but please let us know of any restrictions and allergies and we will make sure you get the meals that you need. Every effort will be made to make your stay as comfortable as possible.

### When is it safe to leave?

It depends on your situation.

If you have tested positive for COVID-19 and have symptoms, you may leave when:

- At least 10 days have passed since your symptoms first started, AND
- At least 24 hours have passed with no fever (without use of fever-reducing medications), AND
- Other symptoms have improved.

If you have tested positive for COVID-19 and never have symptoms, you may leave 10 days after the date of your first positive test.

If you are here because you were exposed to someone with COVID-19, you may leave 14 days after the last time you had close contact with that person.

- The 14-day time applies even if you do not get symptoms of COVID-19 or if you have a negative test for COVID-19 after you were close to that person
- If you do develop symptoms in those 14 days, you should be tested for COVID-19.

### **Can my family join me?**

No. Unless your family member has also been exposed or has tested positive for COVID-19 and they live in your household you should isolate alone. It is important for your family's safety that you remain isolated until it is safe for you to leave. This is the best way to keep the people you love safe and to keep COVID-19 from spreading.

## **Contact Tracing**

### **Why am I being asked who I have come into contact with?**

You may receive a call from your county public health department asking you who you have been in contact with. Your privacy and confidentiality are very important. They will not ask about your immigration status, your Social Security number or payment information.

The information you share will likely be used to let others know that they may have been exposed to COVID-19 but your name will not be shared with anyone you refer us to. The more people answer the call, the more lives and jobs California saves.

## **What is it like to have COVID-19?**

### **How will I feel in the next 14 days? What can I expect?**

Everyone is different. Some people who have COVID-19 may not have any symptoms, but they are still contagious and can pass the virus to others and those people can become very sick. For people who do have symptoms, you may experience the following:

- Cough
- Fever
- Difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Be sure to get care if you have trouble breathing, or have any other emergency warning signs, like pain or pressure in your chest, or if you think it is an emergency

**What do I do if I have a medical emergency?**

Call 911. If you have a medical emergency and you need immediate attention, you should immediately call 911. If you have questions or the situation is not an emergency, you can call: \_\_\_\_\_.

**IMMIGRATION AND PRIVACY****Can I get medical treatment even if I don't have health insurance or I am undocumented?**

Even if you're undocumented and/or don't have health insurance, you can get free COVID-19 testing and treatment. If you don't have insurance call "Medi-Nurse," a 24/7 nurse advice line available in multiple languages at 1-877-409-9052.

You can also call the Medi-Cal COVID-19 hotline at: 833-422-4255.

**Will my personal COVID-19 diagnosis or any of the information I provide be shared?**

The personal information you provide will be used for your hotel reservation. We have safeguards in place to protect your personal information. Providing the following personal information is mandatory:

- your name;
- an e-mail address where a reservation confirmation may be delivered (this could be a community organization);
- county name;
- likely exposure to COVID-19;
- whether you're able to self-quarantine; and
- check-in/check-out dates.

If you decline to provide this information, we will not be able to make your hotel reservations and offer a free hotel stay.

**Will staying in the hotel make me a public charge?**

No. This type of sheltering is not one of the public benefits that counts under the public charge rule, so staying in the hotel should not be counted against you for immigration purposes. If you have questions, about your immigration status and this assistance project, please consult an immigration attorney. More information, including a list of free and low-cost immigration services providers, is available in the new [Guide for Immigrant Californians](#).

## **PAID LEAVE AND EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS**

### **Will my employer find out I'm here? Can I get fired?**

You do not have to tell your employer where you are staying. You cannot be fired for taking time off because of COVID-19 and your employer must allow you to return to work once you are able. In fact, by not going to work, you are being responsible and protecting your co-workers and your company. You should make sure that your employer knows that you are taking time off because of illness. Federal and state laws protect you from discrimination and retaliation. You can find [more information about your rights](#) by visiting the Department of Industrial Relations web page, or by calling (800) 449-3699.

### **Will I get paid my wages while I'm in isolation?**

You may be eligible for wage replacement during the time you are sick. Each person has a different situation. You can find [more information about what you may be eligible for](#) by visiting [www.labor.ca.gov/coronavirus2019/#chart](http://www.labor.ca.gov/coronavirus2019/#chart) or by calling (800) 449-3699.