



July 21, 2020

F2020-10

TO: All Fair CEOs and Board Chairs

SUBJECT: Fairground Pandemic Shelter Guideline Communication

Guidance for Emergency Shelter Operations during COVID-19

With the onset of California's fire season, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought new challenges in the manner in which sheltering events will be conducted in our State. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS), the lead State Department in charge of emergency sheltering operations, has recently released guidance on the new protocols for shelter operations during an infectious disease outbreak (Attachment A). New sheltering concepts, such as the Temporary Evacuation Points (TEPs), have been developed to counter the impacts of COVID-19 on shelter residents. The TEPs will provide shelter in hotels and motels or in multiple shelters accommodating fewer than 50 people instead of a larger traditional shelter.

We encourage you to review this information and then engage in conversations with your county emergency response contacts to determine how your county plans on conducting evacuations based on these guidelines.

In addition, the American Red Cross (ARC) recently released new training information for congregate sheltering in a COVID-19 environment. To better understand the impacts of the pandemic on shelters managed by the ARC, you may view this information from the following link: [COVID-19 Shelter Training American Red Cross](#).

Of particular concern for fairground staff that are assisting in a sheltering operation is the availability of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Fairs that operate under the oversight of the county will need to work directly with their county to obtain any desired PPE for their staff in advance of a sheltering event. The District Agricultural Associations (DAAs) should also inquire with their respective county emergency response contacts about obtaining pre-positioned PPEs for shelter staff; in addition, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is looking into options to provide these resources to these fairs. More information will be sent to all fairs in the network in the near future as the needs are calculated and resource options are established. If adequate supplies are available, we will make these resources available to those fairgrounds most likely to be utilized in a sheltering event. For DAAs, it is important to highlight that CDFA is attempting to secure PPE resources for fairground



staff and associated shelter response personnel; we are unable to procure PPE for the general public sheltering on your grounds.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind all fairs that they need to inform the Fairs and Expositions Branch (F&E) if their fairgrounds are activated or deactivated for emergency response purposes, Please email or call Ken Anater Kenneth.Anater@cdfa.ca.gov, (916) 767-8143 and be prepared to provide:

- Date Activated/Opened
- Response Type (Fire Camp/Evacuation Center/Animal Shelter/PSPS CRC/Logistical Support)
- Number of Responders/Evacuees/Animals on grounds
- Partner Organizations (Cal Fire/USFS/County/Animal rescue Groups)
- Date Demobilized/Closed

Should you have any questions about any of the items covered in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact our office to get clarification. We appreciate and thank you for your dedicated assistance to the communities you serve. While handling evacuations under pandemic conditions in uncharted territory for all of us, we are ready to navigate this path with you to ensure the safety of all that work for and shelter at California fairgrounds.

Sincerely,



John Quiroz, Chief
Fairs and Exposition Branch

Attachment: CDSS Mass Care and Shelter Guidance for Local Governments in a Communicable or Infectious Disease Environment