



How to use the “COVID screening” tools in the Homeless Management Information System (aka Clarity) — technical assistance

April 10, 2020 — updated April 20, 2020

This technical assistance brief from the San Joaquin Continuum of Care and the HMIS Lead Agency is to help homeless service providers document results of screening/assessment for COVID-19. Proper data-gathering is essential to identifying individuals who need isolation, quarantine, and medical treatment to preserve their health and the health of the community.

The SJCoC HMIS is now equipped with an “Assessment” titled “COVID-19 screening tool” that can be used to screen/assess homeless individuals. The HMIS COVID-19 Assessment Tool conforms to Housing and Urban Development and Federal Emergency Management Agency guidelines for COVID-19 screening/assessment. The HMIS COVID-19 Assessment Tool can be used by HMIS member agencies as a full screening/assessment tool to help determine who is a priority for placement in non-congregate shelter, isolation, or quarantine, and to accurately track data regarding COVID-19 among the homeless population.

An on-paper COVID-19 assessment tool developed in partnership with Public Health and Community Medical Centers may also be used to screen/assess homeless individuals by agencies that do not participate in the HMIS or that do not have the capacity to directly use the HMIS Assessment Tool in the field. Providers using an on-paper tool that do not have access to the HMIS or that do not have capacity to enter the information into the HMIS can forward electronic scans of the paper tool to the HMIS Lead Agency (bmendelson@cvlihc.org and jmendelson@cvlihc.org) for proper entry.

Assessment data itself shall be entered into the HMIS via the “Assessment.” Results from either the HMIS Assessment Tool or paper assessment tool shall be recorded in the HMIS via Services.

To record results, agencies in the HMIS likely to conduct COVID screening/assessment have at their disposal a “Service” titled “COVID screening” that can be used to document the results of a screening/assessment for COVID-19. Result categories under the “COVID screening” Service reflect guidance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and input from local homeless health care providers.

Recorded results as a “Service” do not necessarily represent a medical diagnosis. Accuracy of recorded results depends upon the ability of the person/agency entering the data to make a correct interpretation of the screening/assessment. The HMIS Lead Agency can provide support for this interpretation in partnership with local health care agencies.

The person recording the data into the HMIS should record all applicable results.

Symptom and Risk results

One of the following four results should be recorded for every client who is screened/assessed for COVID-19. The HMIS Lead Agency may be able to provide support to agencies that have capacity to gather front-line data but reduced capacity to enter data into HMIS.

“Asymptomatic — high risk”

- This result is for an individual who answers:
- **No** to at least one of “Fever more than 100.4 F” “Cough” “Shortness of Breath more than typical”
- **Yes** to both “Older than age 55” and “Previous medical condition”

“Asymptomatic — low risk”

- This result is for an individual who answers:
- **No** to at least one of “Fever more than 100.4 F” “Cough” “Shortness of Breath more than typical”
- **No** to at least one of “Older than age 55” and “Previous medical condition”

“Symptomatic — high risk”

- This result is for an individual who answers:
- **Yes** to all of “Fever more than 100.4 F” “Cough” “Shortness of Breath more than typical”
- **Yes** to both “Older than age 55” and “Previous medical condition”

“Symptomatic — low risk”

- This result is for an individual who answers:
- **Yes** to all of “Fever more than 100.4 F” “Cough” “Shortness of Breath more than typical”
- **No** to at least one of “Older than age 55” and “Previous medical condition”

Please direct questions to the HMIS Lead Agency, Central Valley Low Income Housing Corp., including if you have questions about how to record the results of a screening/assessment:

bmendelson@cvlihc.org; 209-472-7200 ext. 105

jmendelson@cvlihc.org; 209-470-8425

See Page 3 for more instructions.

COVID Category results

One of the following three results should also be recorded for every client who is screened/assessed and who fits one of these result categories. These three results should be used in addition to the first four results, not in place of the first four results.

“COVID positive”

- This result is for an individual who has a confirmed positive test for COVID. The test must be performed by and results confirmed by a medical provider.

“COVID contact”

- This result is for an individual who is known to have had close recent contact or who self-reports having had close recent contact with another individual who has a confirmed positive test for COVID 19.

“Person Under Investigation”

- This result is for an individual who is suspected of being COVID-19 positive, but is awaiting a definitive test or has not yet been tested. This may include individuals who are “Symptomatic,” and individuals who have had “COVID contact”

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See Page 2 for more instructions.