

Title: COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Regarding People Experiencing Homelessness

Introduced by: Laura Carravallah, MD

Original Authors: Elizabeth Anteau, Donita Barrameda, Tyler Gresham, Aleena Hajek, Rachel Hollander, Laina Weinman, and Laura Carravallah, MD

Referred To: Reference Committee D

House Action: **APPROVED AS AMENDED**

Whereas, approximately 8,575 people in Michigan experience homelessness on a given day, where homelessness is defined as "a person sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g. living on the streets, for example) or living in a homeless emergency shelter," and

Whereas, people experiencing homelessness have limited access to essential hygiene supplies and lack of resources to safely social distance or self-quarantine without having their basic needs threatened, and

Whereas, people experiencing homelessness are at increased risk to contract COVID-19 due to close contact with varying people and are at increased risk for complications due to high rate of underlying health conditions with an estimated peak infection rate of 40 percent and 4.3 percent requiring hospitalization, compared to an estimated infection rate of less than ten percent in the overall United States population, and

Whereas, people experiencing homelessness are more likely to have difficulty accessing medical services/vaccinations traditionally, due to decreased internet, telephone, and/or transportation access, and

Whereas, public health priorities are to prevent COVID-19 outbreaks in facilities and vaccinate those who are not able to maintain social distance, people experiencing homelessness are not included as a specific group in the phases although the workers of the shelter are, and

Whereas, some states such as North Carolina and Rhode Island have specifically listed people who experience homelessness as part of their vaccine distribution strategy prior to distribution to the general population; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS support increased access to vaccines for people experiencing homelessness by advocating for the provision of vaccines at sites easily accessible to people experiencing homelessness such as shelters, food distribution centers, and community centers.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: Resolutions only requesting new or revised MSMS or AMA policy - \$500

Relevant MSMS Policy:

None

Relevant AMA Policy:

None

Sources:

1. Michigan homelessness Statistics. (n.d.). Retrieved February 08, 2021, from <https://www.usich.gov/homelessness-statistics/mi/>
2. Defining homelessness. (n.d.). Retrieved February 08, 2021, from <http://www.housingaccess.net/defining-homelessness.html>
3. Hadden, K., Partlow, D., Liverett, H., Payakachat, N., Jha, B., & Lipschitz, R. (2020, June 11). Addressing homelessness and covid-19 quarantine: A streamlined assessment and referral process. Retrieved February 08, 2021, from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7371311/>
4. Perri, M., Dosani, N., & Hwang, S. (2020, June 29). COVID-19 and people Experiencing Homelessness: Challenges and mitigation strategies. Retrieved February 08, 2021, from <https://www.cmaj.ca/content/192/26/E716>
5. Bajema KL, Wiegand RE, Cuffe K, et al. (2020, November 24). Estimated SARS-CoV-2 Seroprevalence in the US as of September 2020. JAMA Internal Medicine. Retrieved February 17, 2021, from <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/article-abstract/2773576>
6. National Health Care for the Homeless Council. (2020, December). COVID-19 & the HCH Community. Retrieved February 08, 2021, from <https://nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Issue-brief-10-COVID-19-HCH-Community-Vaccines.pdf>
7. Vaccine locations. (n.d.). Retrieved February 08, 2021, from https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_103214_104822---,00.html#comp_121341