

# COVID-19 Client Screening Tool

The following screening tool was developed by the Atlanta, Georgia CoC after which THN included additional guidance from the CDC on how to screen clients for possible COVID-19 symptoms. The purpose of the tool is to identify people with symptoms that indicate they might have a respiratory infection. Although not every person who has respiratory infection symptoms will have COVID-19, using this tool during community spread of COVID-19 may help separate those who are more likely to have COVID-19 from the general population at entry to a homeless shelter or other homeless service program. Public Health officials have advised emergency shelters and street outreach programs to practice social distancing to the maximum extent possible for people who exhibit symptoms.

## **Items to consider when utilizing the screening tool:**

- Identify and regularly monitor clients (and staff) who could be at high risk for complications. This includes individuals who are older, have underlying health conditions like heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, lung disease, or who are immune compromised.
- Determine if the client is a smoker and has a regular routine cough, which may allow you to rule out the possibility of a virus, if a cough is the only symptom the client is exhibiting.
- Service Providers are recommended to have infrared thermometers and protective masks on hand.
  - Temperature takers should keep as much distance as they can, wash their hands with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer regularly, and use gloves if available.
  - Ensure to clean the thermometer between each use.
- The following severe symptoms must be addressed immediately. Call 911 if the client has:
  - Extremely difficult breathing (not being able to speak without gasping for air)
  - Bluish lips or face
  - Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
  - Severe persistent dizziness or lightheadedness
  - New confusion, or inability to arouse
  - New seizure or seizures that won't stop

**The above list of severe symptoms is not all-inclusive. Please consult a medical professional for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning.**

**Become familiar with symptoms of COVID-19 and how they differ from the Flu and allergies.**

COVID-19	FLU	ALLERGIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fever</li> <li>○ Dry Cough</li> <li>○ Shortness of Breath</li> <li>○ Chills/repeated shaking with chills</li> <li>○ Muscle Pain</li> <li>○ Headache</li> <li>○ Sore throat</li> <li>○ New loss of taste or smell</li> </ul> <p>(Symptoms can occur 2 – 14 days after exposure)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fever</li> <li>○ Cough</li> <li>○ Sore Throat</li> <li>○ Headaches</li> <li>○ Body, Muscle Aches</li> <li>○ Runny, Stuffy Nose</li> <li>○ Fatigue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sneezing, Coughing</li> <li>○ Runny Nose, Scratchy Throat</li> <li>○ Itchy, Red Watery Eyes</li> </ul>

Please contact [sophia@thn.org](mailto:sophia@thn.org) and [mollie@thn.org](mailto:mollie@thn.org) if you have questions regarding COVID-19 response best practices and resources. If you have data related questions, please contact [kristin@thn.org](mailto:kristin@thn.org).

## COVID-19 Screening Tool

Assessor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Assessment Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Client First and Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

HMIS Client ID (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Below is a short script that you can go over with the client if they have questions about the screening tool.

### **What is coronavirus/COVID-19?**

Coronavirus is a virus that can cause an infection in your nose, sinuses, and lungs. In December 2019, doctors discovered a new type of coronavirus, which they named COVID-19. The early symptoms of COVID-19 may include fever, headache, dry cough, sore throat, or exhaustion. The virus can lead to shortness of breath, severe chest congestion, and trouble breathing. COVID-19 may be more severe in older individuals and people who have severe medical conditions.

### **Who can catch coronavirus/COVID-19?**

Anyone who is exposed to COVID-19 can become sick. Once exposed, it can take anywhere from 2 to 14 days to show symptoms. You may be able to transmit the virus to your family and friends even when you feel healthy (meaning you are asymptomatic). The virus is spread through droplets when people cough or sneeze. It is transmitted when people breathe in the droplets, or when people touch their face after touching a surface where the droplets have landed.

### **Screening Questions:**

1. Do you have a fever right now or felt like you had one in the past day? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  
Only record the client's temperature if proper equipment is available and if it is safe for you and the client to do so. *If not, leave this field blank.*
  - Record temperature (100.4 or higher is considered a fever): \_\_\_\_\_
2. Do you have a new cough or worsening cough today? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
3. Are you having more trouble breathing than usual? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
4. Are you having chills/or repeated shaking with chills? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
5. Are you having any new muscle pain? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
6. Are you experiencing new or worsening headaches? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
7. Do you have a sore throat now? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
8. Have you noticed a recent loss in your sense of taste or smell? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

