



Public Health
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Butler County General Health District

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Public Health Considers Options for Housing – A tiered approach to be used

BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO – Eighty percent of people with COVID-19 can rest and recover at home, and will do well.

Lori Landis, Director of Nursing for Butler County General Health District said, “Many doctors tell their patients with mild COVID symptoms: ‘Go home, get rest, drink lots of fluids, and call if symptoms worsen.’ This is sound advice.”

But what about people who do not have a home to go to? What about those who live in group settings or shelters where they could make others ill and cause the disease to spread? This is a challenge for health care providers and public health practitioners alike.

The Butler County General Health District, and other health departments across the county, region, state, and nation have been working hard to find options for those of our citizens who will need a place to recover from COVID-19, but who do not have a home to go to.

“In Butler County, no final decision has been made as to any particular option for temporary housing for recovery from COVID-19. Indeed, having a tiered approach with a number of options on the table is the best course of action. One option may be best for 1-2 sick people, while another option may be better for larger numbers should that occur,” said Jenny Bailer, Butler County General Health District's Health Commissioner.

Taking a positive step towards prevention, the Butler County Commissioners recently approved funding to support moving people currently living in shelters into more permanent housing. This proactive, preventive step will assist vulnerable persons with a place to live so that if they do become ill, they have a home to go to where they can isolate and recover. Assuring that people have a place to live will also decrease the number of people in shelters, thus significantly reducing the chance of the disease spreading there.

The next step is to pre-identify possible places for persons without homes to rest and recover if they do become ill.

In Butler County, and around the state, options being explored for persons experiencing homelessness who need to recover from mild COVID-19 include options such as hotels, churches, camps, cabins, schools, and jails. All of these options have pros and cons, none are 100% ideal.

“We appreciate the many, many partners who have been open to discussing options and solutions for housing. As we move forward, we will see how this evolves,” added Jenny Bailer, Butler County General Health District's Health Commissioner.

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