

Emergency Relief Centres- COVID-19 Risk Management Plan



Government
of South Australia
SA Housing Authority

Background: In an emergency event the Emergency Relief Functional Support Group (ERFSG) is required to establish and operate relief and recovery centres to support the affected community under the State Emergency Management Plan. This plan outlines proposed risk mitigation strategies for operating a relief centre as safely as possible during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Due to the critical and immediate threat to public safety in the event of a large-scale emergency, it is anticipated that the ERFSG will open a physical relief centre irrespective of any COVID-19 restrictions, however this will be undertaken as much as is possible in a COVID-19 safe approach.

Depending on the level restrictions in place, it may not be possible for ERFSG to adhere to all legislative directions involving social distancing/group numbers/levels of interactions in the event of disaster, however risk controls will be implemented to reduce the risk of infection as much as possible.

Risk Level	Low/Moderate
Trigger	<i>No community transmission</i>
Risk Mitigation Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Risk Assessment: COVID-19 Screening/Assessment upon entry to the ERC - Supplies: Recommended actions and supplies for management of symptomatic presentations (appropriate PPE including masks) - Designated zones: Separate isolation space and further assessment. - Documentation: Sign in/out sheet for contact tracing purposes - QR Code Registrations - Support physical distancing by posters, floor decals and layout of room - Support good hand hygiene practices with required use of alcohol hand rub upon entry and exit and multiple other access points to hand washing and alcohol hand rub - Increased cleaning of high touch points including door handles, bathrooms, toilets and food preparation areas. - Work station cleaning: wiping down of desk/chair/surfaces at each work station between each change of person - Fixtures and fittings: utilising surfaces that are easily disinfected (i.e. plastic or laminate furniture) where possible - COVID Marshall on site - COVID Safe Plan - Limit number of persons in the internal spaces to no more than 1 person per 2 square metres (or to match the current density requirements at the time) - Designated entry/exit points - Ensure that all areas are well ventilated - Make use of outdoor spaces where possible rather than indoor - Staff training for COVID safe practice <p>*some strategies may not be possible due to infrastructure/resources</p>

*Completed in consultation with Communicable Disease Control Branch (CDCB)- SA Health

*Community transmission refers to a COVID positive case with no known source

Risk Level	High
Trigger	<i>Known community transmission</i>
Risk Mitigation Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COVID Screening/Assessment upon entry and including a symptomatic presentation plan (including masks, separate isolation space and further assessment) - Sign in/out sheet for contact tracing purposes - Support physical distancing by posters, floor decals and layout of room - Support good hand hygiene practices with required use of alcohol hand rub upon entry and exit and multiple other access points to hand washing and alcohol hand rub - Increased cleaning of high touch points including door handles - Wiping down of desk/chair/surfaces at each work station between each change of person - Utilising surfaces that are easily disinfected (i.e. plastic or laminate furniture) where possible - COVID Marshall on site - Voluntary COVID Safe Plan (not mandated) - Limit number of persons in the internal spaces to no more than 1 person per 2 square metres (or to match the current density requirements at the time) - Designated entry/exit points - Ensure that all areas are well ventilated - Make use of outdoor spaces - Support from SA Health with clinical personnel onsite to assist with screening, triaging and PPE education (donning and doffing) - Requirement of all persons entering ERC to wear a mask (including staff) - Minimise physical time in ERC by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prioritising Emergency Accommodation ○ Have community members complete only essential paperwork and provide ID, then return to their car and utilise a call-back system for grants ○ Provide grants via direct deposits rather than physical Eftpos cards ○ Advertise ERC central phone number to support phone enquiries where possible - Further emphasis on outdoor spaces - Intermittent announcements to remind of physical distances and hand hygiene <p>*ERU would need to consider the scale of the event, the current density requirements, size of the potential space and resources available to assess whether multiple centres could be opened.</p> <p>*Noting that staffing resources will be a particular challenge for SAHA and Participating Organisations due to reduced capacity of those who are immuno-compromised or symptomatic</p>

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