



News Release

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Outreach Teams Formed to Protect Unsheltered Homeless From COVID-19

Salt Lake County, UT – In an effort to protect unsheltered individuals in Salt Lake County from the spread of COVID-19, our existing homeless outreach efforts are evolving to better meet the immediate needs of our community. Several multidisciplinary outreach teams have been formed to provide COVID-19 assessments, connection to medical care, education on social distancing by seeking to minimize the size of groups and conducting wellness checks. The teams will also continue to ensure basic needs are met such as food, clothing, and hygiene supplies and they will connect individuals with services and resources as appropriate. Outreach teams will collect data to assist with identifying the needs of unsheltered individuals and locations for additional follow-up from the Salt Lake County Health Department.

Each outreach team consists of an outreach worker, a peer support specialist, and a public health nurse. This effort is only possible through the strong coordination and collaboration between service providers, public health and public safety leaders, and other partners.

Team members will take the necessary steps to protect themselves and their clients from the potential spread of COVID-19 by asking the appropriate screening questions, wearing Personal Protective Equipment, and practicing social distancing.

If you see a large group that may need assistance, you can call Volunteers of America Outreach Response Lines at 801-631-7584 (countywide) or 385-266-0020 (Salt Lake City).

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