MEDIA ADVISORY FOR
Tuesday, March 24, 2020

Plymouth Housing Partners with Swedish Health Services and DESC to Deploy Mobile Unit to Test Vulnerable Residents for Novel Coronavirus

Beginning today, Swedish Health Services, in partnership with Plymouth Housing and Downtown Emergency Service Center (DESC), will proactively screen and test some of King County’s most vulnerable populations for the novel coronavirus: formerly homeless adults living in single room occupancy housing (SRO), shelter or efficiency apartments.

Swedish staff will conduct COVID-19 screening and, when deemed necessary, testing of Plymouth Housing and DESC residents. The testing will occur in a reconfigured Swedish mobile mammography truck that has been adapted into a COVID-19 mobile testing unit.

During the three-hour testing, medical staff will see 50-80 people. Those who show symptoms during the screening process will receive a test for the virus. Each person will receive education about how to reduce their exposure and that of others to COVID-19. As residents in SRO housing are unable to isolate themselves due to shared facilities, it’s critical to detect any outbreak of COVID-19 early, said Paul Lambros, CEO of Plymouth Housing.

“During this unprecedented time in Plymouth’s forty-year history, we’re grateful for our innovative, dedicated health care partners. Recognizing that many of our residents live with multiple health conditions and often fall into high risk categories for COVID-19, both Swedish Hospital and NeighborCare Health have stepped up quickly to do proactive education and screening at our properties,” Lambros said.

“In this time of crisis, we were actively looking for ways to help those members of our community who are most in need,” said Swedish CEO Dr. Guy Hudson. “Swedish is pleased to work with Plymouth Housing to reach this vulnerable population by bringing COVID-19 one-stop testing sites right to their doorsteps. This process entailed quickly converting our mobile mammography units for this urgent purpose. We are proud to be a part of the community and we will continue to contribute to the health and well-being of our neighbors and the region.”
Following on this pilot use of the COVID-19 mobile testing unit, Swedish plans to identify additional opportunities to deploy the testing unit to serve other critical populations in the community.

**WHO:** Swedish Health Services, Plymouth Housing, DESC  
**WHAT:** Mobile COVID-19 screening and testing  
**WHEN:** 2 p.m., Tuesday, March 24  
**WHERE:** 619 Third Ave. Look for the Swedish mobile mammography van

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