

AHTF Home Repair Program

Restart After COVID-19

5/18/2020

Effective May 25, 2020, subgrantees may resume home repair duties to the full extent needed to meet KHC standards if the following guidelines are followed and the subgrantee feels that it is in the best interest of the subgrantee and clients. The guidelines below are the MINIMUM requirements for reopening the AHTF Home Repair program.

Before Work Begins

Infection Measures

1. Prohibit handshaking, maintain social distancing of 6 feet
2. Frequent handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, and regular use of hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol when soap and water are unavailable
3. Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands
4. Routine, daily disinfecting of equipment and tools being used in the field

Crew Training

1. Ensure your organization is complying with the Governor's [Healthy at Work](#) guidelines, [CDC guidelines](#), and [OSHA requirements](#).
2. Train and equip all field workers with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and how to properly use it, remove it and clean it to avoid contamination of self and others. Examples of PPE include gloves, goggles, face shields and masks, N95 filtering respirators.
3. Provide crews with sanitary wipes that can be used to clean surfaces in clients' homes both **before** and **after performing work**. See the [EPA list](#) of disinfectants for use against SARS-CoV-2 (novel coronavirus).
4. Ensure all vehicles and crew members are equipped with hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
5. Minimize the number of crew and clients in the home at the time of interior work; try to isolate clients to one room. Crews conducting interior work will wear PPE at the highest level available and required by the weatherization measure. At minimum all staff must wear masks and gloves when in client homes.
6. Crews conducting interior work will wear PPE to cover eyes, nose, mouth, and hands.
7. Clients remaining in the home should wear face masks when crews are in the home. Crews should offer face masks to clients without their own masks.
8. Consider installing a physical barrier, such as a clear sheet of plastic, to isolate a client while interior work is being conducted.

9. If workers arrive at a site and determine a client is exhibiting respiratory illness, crews should not proceed with work and report to the subgrantee.

Client Screening

Subgrantees may choose to screen clients and/or use thermometers with crew and clients before entering a home.

Examples of Screening Questions

1. Has anyone in the household tested positive for COVID-19 in the last two weeks?
2. Is anyone in your household experiencing fever, cough or shortness of breath in the last two weeks?
3. Has anyone in your household been in contact with someone who has had a fever, cough or shortness of breath in the last two weeks?
4. Consider using the COVID-19 self-screening tool to help determine if clients should be serviced or deferred for a period. Check your risk for COVID-19 - <https://c19check.com/start>.

HIPAA Privacy and COVID-19: In light of the Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is providing this bulletin to ensure that HIPAA covered entities and their business associates are aware of the ways that patient information may be shared under the HIPAA Privacy Rule in an outbreak of infectious disease or other emergency situation, and to serve as a reminder that the protections of the Privacy Rule are not set aside during an emergency. The HIPAA Privacy Rule protects the privacy of patients' health information (protected health information) but is balanced to ensure that appropriate uses and disclosures of the information still may be made when necessary to treat a patient, to protect the nation's public health, and for other critical purposes.

Completing a Job

All signatures required on pre- or post-job paperwork should be collected with all safety precautions. KHC will accept electronic signatures if subgrantee has systems in place to collect those. (There are apps that exist to make obtaining electronic signatures easier.)

If electronic signatures can not be obtained, paperwork should be placed in Ziploc bags and handed to clients. Clients use their own pens for signing and place the documents back in the Ziploc bag. When received, Ziploc bags should be sanitized.

All surfaces should be sanitized at the end of each job.