



Simpson Meal Service FAQ Sheet

June 14, 2021

COVID-19 Volunteer Expectations

We are excited to have volunteers back, we've missed you!

During the COVID-19 pandemic, volunteers must:

- Be fully vaccinated; at least 2 weeks after the second dose in a 2-dose vaccine series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or it's been at least 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine.
- Conduct a self-assessment for symptoms of illness before arriving at the shelter.
- Wear a tight-fitting mask over their nose and mouth. Volunteers may also choose to wear extra protection, like a face shield or goggles.
- [Sign in and out](#) using the computer in the shelter kitchen.
- Expect change. Please be aware that we are in a time of transition and expectations and protocols will be change frequently as we continue through the pandemic.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can children and youth volunteer?

At this time, only fully vaccinated youth are allowed to volunteer. We look forward to welcoming all children and youth back as volunteers once the vaccine is widely available for all age groups.

Is everyone in the shelter vaccinated?

No, being vaccinated is not a requirement to stay in the shelter. However, all guests and staff have access to vaccine and there have been multiple vaccine clinics at the shelter. If a shelter guest would like to be vaccinated, Healthcare for the Homeless will provide transportation to the clinic.

Will guests and staff wear face masks?

Shelter volunteers and staff are required to wear face masks; however, shelter guests are not required to wear face masks.

Why aren't guests required to wear masks?

Simpson Housing does not want to turn away or ban guests for not wearing a facemask.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) advised us that being homeless without shelter and being subject to the wider public, violence, and weather, was more dangerous for shelter guests than being inside the shelter without a mask.

What if a guest has COVID-19 symptoms?

When someone has COVID-19 symptoms, the shelter staff contacts Hennepin County's Healthcare for the Homeless team. Healthcare for the Homeless provides transportation for the guest to get tested at a clinic. If the symptoms appear after hours, the shelter team can transport the guest to HCMC to be tested or quarantine the guest until the next day to be tested.

If the test is positive, Hennepin County will provide a space for the individual to isolate at a local hotel. The guest returns to the shelter after all of the requirements for leaving isolation have been met.

What if I come into contact with someone who was later diagnosed with COVID-19?

All volunteers must be fully vaccinated before entering the building. Minnesota Department of Health guidelines state that if you are fully vaccinated you do not need to quarantine if you come into contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19.

Is there social distancing at the shelter?

The shelter is currently operating at decreased capacity in order to increase distancing. Guests will be asked to keep their distance from volunteers while proceeding through the buffet line. Guests are also asked to keep their distance at the dining tables.

Is volunteering at the shelter safe during COVID-19?

Simpson Housing works closely with the Minnesota Department of Health and is committed to operating responsibly during the pandemic and doing what we can to decrease the risk of spreading COVID-19.

The decision to volunteer is a personal one. It may feel uncomfortable or shocking to be indoors with people who are not wearing masks.

Some considerations for returning to volunteer:

- Responsibilities to family and loved ones who are unvaccinated.
- Your health and your individual level of risk.
- Your own level of comfort.

Meal Logistics

	Evening Meal	Breakfast Meal
Serving Time	7 PM	8 AM
Recommended number of volunteers	6-10	5-8
Maximum number of volunteers	10	8
Number of Servings <i>Groups may want to add servings for their volunteers.</i>	Approximately 50 guests	Approximately 30 guests
Shelter Tours	<p>Staff will offer a tour around 6:30 PM.</p> <p>Tours are only available if staff have capacity. Staff are responsible for caring for guests and are always dealing with dynamic situations. If staff are unable to give a tour at 6:30, they will make every attempt to reconnect with volunteers and offer a tour when possible.</p> <p>Staff are not able to give multiple tours.</p>	<p>Unfortunately, tours are not possible. Staff are available to share information and answer questions instead.</p>
Calling tables	Tables will be called by staff a few at a time so there are fewer guests in line.	Calling tables is not necessary in the morning because fewer people are eating at once.
Late plates	The procedure will depend on the amount of leftover food. Please seek guidance from staff.	
Eating with Guests	At this time, volunteers may not eat with guests. We look forward to bringing back this opportunity as soon as we can.	