



## **COVID-19 Q & A**

### ***Q: What are considered essential services?***

**A:** Essential businesses are those that provide food, shelter, social services and homeless services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals; fresh and non-perishable food retailers (including convenience stores); pharmacies; childcare facilities; gas stations; banks; laundry businesses and services necessary for maintaining the safety, sanitation and essential operation of a residence.

*San Diego Rescue Mission's services are considered essential.*

### ***Q: How is the Rescue Mission keeping staff and program participants safe and healthy during the pandemic?***

**A:** The health and safety of staff and program participants are our top priorities and maintaining a high standard of safety is of utmost importance to us.

We follow all Center for Disease Control (CDC), State and County Public Health Guidelines and operate according to the COVID-19 safety requirements, complying with the Public Health Order.

We are doing everything we can to operate safely without compromising our mission to help those experiencing homelessness receive rehabilitation and recovery. The alternative -- shutting everything down and sending our students and guests back onto the streets -- is not an option nor what we feel God is calling us to do.

### ***Q: Has the Rescue Mission had any confirmed cases of COVID-19?***

**A:** By nature of what we do and how we operate -- people coming and going from our communal living space -- even with safeguards and protocols in place, there have been a couple of isolated incidents of program participants contracting COVID-19 since November 2020, but nothing prior. Immediate actions were taken to isolate the individuals and they were taken to local hotels to quarantine. We have not had any community spread. Program staff are committed to providing essential services to people in our programs who are experiencing homelessness, addiction, abuse or poverty.

### ***Q: Is it safe for visitors and volunteers to serve at the Rescue Mission during the current State of California lockdown?***

**A:** San Diego Rescue Mission would not be able to provide these important services without support from community volunteers.



We take precautions to ensure the safety of visitors and volunteers. Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, on-site volunteer opportunities are limited to food service and individual or small groups of under 6 people helping with behind-the-scenes activities. Specialized needs requiring interacting with students and/or their families will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis as by our Program Staff.

It is completely up to our volunteers and visitors as to whether they feel comfortable coming in to serve or not. If you're comfortable, healthy, and not in an at-risk group, we would love to welcome you at the Rescue Mission or provide you with remote volunteer opportunities.