

1. Use as a health isolation facility is rather different than use as a hotel.

This will be a facility for individuals experiencing homelessness who are at high risk for negative outcomes if they become COVID19 positive and are unable to practice social distancing in their current location.

2. For any people who were using the hotel as their permanent residence but have concerns about living at a health facility, what relocation assistance has been offered?

Any long-term residents that were using the hotel as their residence were relocated by the hotel to other properties they own.

3. For any Hotel staff who have concerns about working at a health facility, has Pleaides agreed not to dispute their unemployment filing? Or what accommodation has the city made?

The agreement states the owner “shall ensure that all hotel staff will receive the same compensation as they would otherwise have received absent any City occupancy, whether they are reassigned to another hotel or relieved of duty for the duration of the Agreement”. Any staff that remain will stay in areas designated for staff only.

4. During our neighborhood planning process, APH identified endemic health risk here as housing immediately on the highways. The Strategic Housing Blueprint calls for not locating affordable housing within 500-ft buffer from high volume roadways like I35 and US-183, due to the harmful respiratory health impacts of lower air quality resulting from vehicle emissions. Hotel rooms are within 200-300-ft. How will air quality be assured for people with respiratory illness?

This facility is only for temporary, emergency housing during the COVID-19 pandemic, this is not considered a long term permanent supportive housing and individuals are encouraged to shelter in place and only leave for necessary activities.

5. This hotel is a much different facility than the property leased at 6121 N IH-35, including that it does not have kitchens or restaurants. The nearest grocery requires a mile walk and a bus ride. How will people isolated at Motel 6 get meals?

Three meals a day will be provided as well as some shelf stable food.

6. There are many inter-relationships between this site's interstate access, people without incomes, addiction, and crime. The Little Walnut Creek-Wonsley segment of the I35 southbound access road is one of the highest crime areas of the city. The property does not have the ability to physically control access to their property. How will security be assured for people in isolation and their belongings?

Temporary fencing will be installed where access to the property can be controlled by onsite security.

7. How will addiction to cigarettes, alcohol, or illegal drugs be handled for people in isolation?

We are working with Integral Care for behavioral health needs.

8. Supportive housing facilities in our neighborhood tend to have issues involving homeless friends or relatives that the resident has allowed to stay (so that they are sheltered), but who don't have supportive services. How will this be handled for people isolated at the property?

No visitors will be allowed onsite and housing-focused supportive services are being coordinated for the homeless individuals who will be staying at the property during this pandemic.

9. How will APD's role at this site during the isolation use be different than their routine role for the hotel use?

APD will be providing 24/7 security and they will be controlling access to the property.

10. How are the control orders enforced? In particular, what if someone wants to walk off the property to visit friends, conduct business, or shop?

The following is information that is provided to all individuals who will be staying at the property: Individuals in self-quarantine are not restricted from leaving their room. However, people within the city limits are currently under a shelter in place order, and people should only leave for necessary activities. You are strongly encouraged to restrict activities outside of your designated space, including going to school, work, public areas, or using public transportation. You should only leave your room to see your doctor. You should call ahead to let them know whether or not you have symptoms. At this time, all persons in the city of Austin should remain at least six (6) feet away from each other.

11. What happens when someone's isolation period is over, and they don't have housing lined up?

This will not be an isolation facility. Case management staff will work them on long term housing strategies.

12. What happens when the need for this medical isolation facility is over, but Austin motel occupancy is still down 95%?

The Economic Development department is working on an economic recovery plan. Many businesses including hotels will be impacted and it is anticipated that local, state and federal resources will be available.