
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE



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**Kent County Health Department Using Guiding Light Facility As
COVID-19 Isolation Center for Those Experiencing Homelessness**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (April 3, 2020) – The Kent County Health Department has partnered with Guiding Light to designate its facility at 255 S. Division Ave. as an isolation center for those experiencing homelessness who have tested positive for COVID-19 or are awaiting test results.

“Guiding Light has always been a valued partner, but now more than ever, we appreciate their collaboration, sacrifice, and generosity,” said Dr. Adam London, Kent County Health Department Director. “Our goal is to provide a safe place for people who are experiencing homelessness to recover from the coronavirus and to minimize the transmission of the virus.”

The facility has 24 private rooms, a bunk area, six bathrooms, and a full-service kitchen that can accommodate up to 60 individuals when fully staffed.

“Our staff has done a tremendous job transitioning this facility into an isolation center,” said Dr. London. “They have worked tirelessly to assess the medical and operational needs to ensure individuals using this facility are well cared for during their recovery.”

The development of this facility would not have been possible without the partnership of the City of Grand Rapids and the non-profit community, as well as the generosity of Amway Corporation and Meijer Inc. who donated household and hygiene items.

“This is a very strategic and important public health intervention which will save lives,” concluded Dr. London.

The facility will begin accepting patients today (April 3, 2020) who are referred from community hospitals after testing positive for COVID-19 or are awaiting test results. Guiding Light is maintaining its rescue, recovery, and re-engagement programs at its Iron House facility.

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KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and three satellite clinics located in Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit www.accesskent.com/health.

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