

# Supporting people who use substances in shelter settings during the COVID-19 pandemic

## NATIONAL RAPID GUIDANCE DEVELOPMENT

### Development:

This guidance document on supporting people who use substances in shelter settings was developed to provide urgent advice in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The document is guided by the principles of harm reduction and engaging people with lived or living experience in the development and operation of services designed for people who use substances and are experiencing homelessness or housing vulnerability.

The document was written by a core CRISM authorship committee and reviewed by experts in the field.

Members of the authorship committee based their recommendations on scientific expert knowledge, available scientific evidence, and a review of relevant documentation from public health authorities and other relevant organizations.

### Authors and Contributors:

The 27 authorship committee members and external reviewers are from across Canada and have varied backgrounds, including academics who specialize in substance use and harm reduction research, front-line staff who provide services for people who use substances, healthcare professionals who provide evidence-based care for people who use substances, experts in infection prevention and control, and people with lived or living experience of substance use.

### Timeline:

Project call released on Research Net - May 1, 2020  
Document sent for external review - May 8, 2020  
Guidance document Version 1 launch - May 17, 2020

#### Where did the funding come from?

Health Canada partnered with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) to fund this CRISM COVID-19 pandemic guidance program.

#### Who should read this document?

The target audience for this national rapid guidance document includes both clinical and non-clinical staff organizing and delivering care to people accessing day, overnight, and/or medical isolation shelters during the COVID-19 pandemic. The guidance contained in this document may also be relevant for policymakers, public health authorities, groups representing people who use drugs and those in recovery, advocates, and other people working to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and protect the health and wellbeing of people who are experiencing homelessness or housing vulnerability.

[www.crism.ca/projects/covid](http://www.crism.ca/projects/covid)



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