

How to set up temporary supervised consumption services (SCS) in shelter settings

NATIONAL RAPID GUIDANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

PROVIDERS MAY TAKE THESE KEY POINTS INTO CONSIDERATION; HOWEVER THIS DOCUMENT DOES NOT SUPERCEDE PROVINCIAL / TERRITORIAL REGULATION OR CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Getting an Exemption

Apply for a legal exemption to operate an SCS through (1) your provincial or territorial Minister of Health (or delegated authority) by contacting your provincial or territorial department of health, or (2) Health Canada by contacting hc.exemption.sc@canada.ca.

Setting up the Service

Consult with local people who use substances, and consider available resources when determining the features of the SCS.

MODEL: The SCS can be set up as a centralized model, where all participants attend one or more designated areas, or as a decentralized or dispersed model, where a participant consumes substances within their own designated area and are monitored by a staff member or peer.

GROUPING PARTICIPANTS DEPENDING ON COVID-19 STATUS: Participants at varying degrees of COVID-19 risk should be separated as much as possible: (1) those who are not suspected of COVID-19 infection; (2) those who are suspected to be COVID-19 positive but are awaiting test results or who have had close contact with someone who is confirmed positive for COVID-19; and (3) those who are confirmed positive for COVID-19.

PRIVACY: Protect the privacy of participants by locating the service in an area that limits visibility from other residents.

LIGHTING: Proper lighting in all areas of the SCS is required to ensure the safety of participants and staff.

MODE OF ADMINISTRATION: Ideally all major routes of drug administration (oral, intranasal, injection, and inhalation) would be accommodated. Pop-up inhalation tents could be established in outdoor areas within view of staff if appropriate indoor areas are not available.

HAND HYGIENE AND CLEANING: Staff and participants at the SCS must have access to hand hygiene sinks and/or a Health Canada approved hand sanitizer, and should frequently perform hand hygiene. A process should be developed for regularly cleaning and disinfecting the SCS that includes roles and responsibilities, frequency, and tracking.

Building Trust with People who use Substances

Consider recruiting and compensating an advisory committee of people who access the service and hiring people with lived and living experience of substance use.

Addressing Overdose Outside SCS

People may continue using substances in bathrooms and other private or semi-private areas. Have procedures in place for monitoring high-risk areas within and around the shelter for potential unobserved overdoses.

www.crisp.ca/projects/covid



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