

Embarcadero SAFE Navigation Center
June Update from 5 Keys

In early June, all guests at the Embarcadero SAFE Navigation Center were tested for COVID-19, and the site was converted to a COVID Negative SAFE Navigation Center (See letter from 6/3/20). All guests who were tested were found to be negative for COVID-19 and therefore were able to stay at the Navigation Center. Before any new placements are made, guests will be tested for COVID-19.

There are currently 53 guests on-site at the SAFE Navigation Center. Operations continue to function as they did before the pandemic but with fewer guests and more Shelter in Place and social distancing protocols.

Five Keys has implemented an incentive program that includes the use of "Embarcadero Bucks" so guests can "shop" at the on-site store (clothes, snacks, chargers, etc.) for guests wearing masks, social distancing and staying inside. We are so grateful for the clothing donations we have received from our neighbors. We can always use socks and personal hygiene items.

While some services have been put on pause due to COVID 19, we have care managers that still work here to provide our guests with one on one meetings, help them with benefits and continue their housing search. Additionally, we also have DPH nurses on-site regularly to assist guests with medical needs.

During the Shelter in Place, our activities Coordinator has cultivated a beautiful garden that the guests help with, along with facilitating discussions centered around educating our guests on COVID 19 and making sure guests are informed with the facts.

Generally, things are going really well over here. Our staff have really stepped up and are a shining light for this community. Guests are taking it upon themselves to stay busy within the Navigation Center and helping staff with cleaning, organizing property, and more. We have socially distanced karaoke some nights that many of the guests enjoy. More so, our guests are so thankful that they have a safe place to be during this uncertain time, where so many services have been paused.

Our guests have been tested for COVID 19, and at the time of results, everyone tested negative. We continue to work hard with cleaning, providing masks, and social distancing to keep everyone safe while they stay here.

We continue to encourage our neighbors to use our hotline phone number if they see garbage or things that need cleaning around the center and our staff will happily take care of it.