

April 7, 2020

MEMORANDUM

To: Select Committee on Homeless Strategies and Investments
From: Jeff Simms, Analyst
Subject: Background on COVID-19 Hygiene Units

On April 8, 2020, the Select Committee on Homeless Strategies and Investments (Select Committee) will receive a briefing from the Executive and discuss 1) actions taken to ensure people experiencing homelessness have access to necessary hygiene services, including toilets and handwashing stations, and 2) updates on the outbreak of Hepatitis A in Ballard. This memo summarizes the deployment and closing of facilities that allow people experiencing homelessness to access hygiene services and provides details on Hepatitis A in Seattle to inform the discussion.

Background

The first death in King County related to SARS-CoV-2 or novel coronavirus (COVID-19) was announced on February 28, 2020. The next day, the Governor declared a state of emergency, and the Mayor [announced](#) activation of the Emergency Operations Center. The Mayor declared a state of emergency the following Monday, March 3.

A series of steps affecting people experiencing homelessness were taken over the following days that reduced the population density at shelters but decreased overall access to hygiene services:

- **Early March:** The Navigation Team began distributing hygiene kits that include paper towels, soap, and water for handwashing.
- **March:** Seattle Public Utilities implemented the expansion of the encampment trash program or the “purple bag” program, which had been funded in the 2020 Adopted Budget.
- **March 9:** The first additional shelter to redistribute or “deintensify” high occupancy shelters was opened at Seattle Center Exhibition Hall. Subsequently, additional locations have opened or been announced that will allow the redistribution of as many as 709 shelter beds.
- **March 12:** First occupant placed at the Kent isolation and quarantine facility operated by King County’s Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) and Public Health—Seattle and King County (PHSKC).
- **March 13:** All Seattle libraries, community centers, pools, environmental learning centers and other recreation facilities closed for at least one month. The closure of those facilities significantly affected bathroom access for people experiencing homelessness.
- **March 28:** 14 toilets and 6 handwashing stations, which had previously been announced on March 17, [came online](#). Despite the addition of these stations, the overall number of toilet,

handwashing, and shower facilities available to people experiencing homelessness likely decreased as a result of public facility closures.

- **April 5:** The Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks) completed work to reopen bathroom access at a number of SPR facilities. These are detailed below.

The four hygiene trailers announced both on [March 17](#) and [March 27](#) have not become operational, and the 95 new emergency shelter beds that were first announced on [March 9](#) will not be operational until sometime later this month.

Hepatitis A Outbreak

In March, there were 25 new cases of Hepatitis A in King County. In prior years, King County typically had between five and 16 Hepatitis A cases annually, though there had been a notable increase in 2019 with 49 infections in just over 12 months. Of the new cases in March 2020, 11 were confirmed among people experiencing homelessness in Ballard.

The Hepatitis A virus infects the liver and can cause illness that ranges from a mild infection with mild or no symptoms to a more severe illness that can last for months. Hepatitis enters the body orally through fecal contamination of an object, food, or drink. The spread of Hepatitis A is tied significantly to inadequate hygiene and sanitation. An outbreak of Hepatitis A in San Diego in 2017 killed 20 people and was tied to the lack of hygiene facilities for people experiencing homelessness. The Seattle City Auditor highlighted this risk in its 2017 [Reporting Plan for the Navigation Team](#).

Current Hygiene Access

As of this writing, Parks has reopened numerous facilities to ensure that people experiencing homelessness have access to toilets and handwashing. However, many public facilities are closed due to the COVID-19 outbreak and no longer offer such access, notably libraries. Attachment A provides the full list of facilities that are now available.

Some services have been established specifically for people experiencing homelessness in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The Navigation Team has offered hygiene kits to people in unsanctioned encampments, and, as noted above, the City has opened 14 toilets and six handwashing stations near encampments. Nevertheless, there are very few facilities available overnight for people experiencing homelessness.

Attachments:

- A. Available Hygiene Facilities as of April 6, 2020

cc: Kirstan Arestad, Central Staff Executive Director
Aly Pennucci, Central Staff Supervising Analyst

Attachment A: Available Hygiene Facilities as of April 6, 2020

NAME	OPERATING TIMES
Parks Restrooms	
ALKI BEACH PARK - 63RD	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
ALKI BEACH PARK- BATHHOUSE	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
ALKI PLAYGROUND	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
ASA MERCER	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
ATLANTIC CITY BOAT RAMP	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
BALLARD COMMONS	Open 24 hours (Loo, 3 Sanicans, and a handwashing station)
BALLARD COMMUNITY CENTER	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
BAYVIEW PLAYGROUND	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
BEACON HILL PLAYGROUND	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
BITTER LAKE PLAYFIELD	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
BRADNER GARDENS PARK	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
BRIGHTON PLAYFIELD	Closed for Construction – Sanican
BURKE-GILMAN PLAYGROUND PARK	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
CAL ANDERSON PARK	Closed for Construction (SPU Comfort Station located at Cal Anderson)
CAMP LONG- WEST	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
CARKEEK PARK	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
CASCADE PLAYGROUND	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
COLMAN PLAYGROUND	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
COWEN PARK	Closed due to Vandalism, working to reopen (Ravenna Park Lower Station is nearby)
DAHL (WALDO J.) PLAYFIELD	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
DAVID RODGERS PARK	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
DELRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTER/PLAYFIELD	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
DISCOVERY PARK BEACH	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
DISCOVERY PARK MAIN	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
DISCOVERY PARK SOUTH	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
DON ARMENI PARK	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
DR. JOSE RIZAL PARK	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
E.C. HUGHES PLAYGROUND	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
EAST QUEEN ANNE	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
EAST QUEEN ANNE PLAYGROUND	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
FAIRMOUNT PLAYGROUND	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
GARFIELD PLAYFIELD	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
GAS WORKS PARK	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm

NAME	OPERATING TIMES
GENESEE PARK	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
GENESEE PLAYFIELD	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
GEORGETOWN PLAYFIELD	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
GILMAN PLAYGROUND	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
GOLDEN GARDENS OFF LEASH	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
GOLDEN GARDENS PARK	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
GREEN LAKE 65 TH	Open 24 hours
GREEN LAKE COMMUNITY CENTER	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
GREEN LAKE SHELLHOUSE	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
GREEN LAKE WADING POOL	Open 24 hours
GREENWOOD PARK	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
HIAWATHA	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
HIGHLAND PARK PLAYGROUND	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
HUTCHINSON PLAYGROUND	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
INTERBAY ATHLETIC FIELD	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
JEFFERSON PARK	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
JOHN C. LITTLE, SR. PARK	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
JUDKINS PARK AND PLAYFIELD UPPER	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
JUDKINS PARK/PICNIC LOWER	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
KINNEAR PARK	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
LAKERIDGE PLAYGROUND	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
LAKEWOOD PLAYGROUND	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
LAURELHURST Community Center	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
LESCHI PARK	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
LICTON SPRINGS	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
LINCOLN PARK BEACH	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
LINCOLN PARK COLEMAN	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
LINCOLN PARK CONESION	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
LINCOLN PARK WADING	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
LITTLE BROOK PARK	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm (will open Memorial Day Weekend)
LOYAL HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CENTER	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
MADISON PARK	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
MADRONA PARK	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
MAGNOLIA PARK	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
MAPLE LEAF PLAYGROUND	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
MAPLE WOOD PLAYFIELD	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
MATTHEWS BEACH PARK	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
MEADOWBROOK PLAYFIELD	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
MERIDIAN PLAYGROUND	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm

NAME	OPERATING TIMES
MILLER COMMUNITY CENTER	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
MONTLAKE COMMUNITY CENTER	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
MONTLAKE PLAYFIELD	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
MOUNT BAKER PARK	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
MOUNT BAKER PARK/BATHHOUSE	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
NORTHACRES PARK	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
NORTHACRES PARK - Wading Pool	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
OTHELLO PLAYGROUND	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
PEPPIS PLAYGROUND	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
POWELL BARNETT PARK	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
PRATT PARK	Closed for Construction – 2 Sanicans
QUEENE ANNE BOWL	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
RAINIER BEACH PLAYFIELD	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
RAINIER PLAYFIELD	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
RAVENNA PARK LOWER	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
RIVERVIEW PF	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
ROGERS PLAYGROUND	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
ROSS PLAYGROUND	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
ROXHILL PARK	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
SANDEL PLAGROUND	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
SALMON BAY PARK	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
SEACREST PARK	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
SEWARD PARK - Bath House Exterior	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
SEWARD PARK - NORTH	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
SEWARD PARK - SOUTH	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
SOUNDVIEW	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
STANLEY SAYRES MEMORIAL PARK	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
UNIVERSITY PLAYGROUND	Closed - Sanican
VAN ASSELT COMMUNITY CENTER	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
VIEW RIDGE PLAYFIELD	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
VOLUNTEER PARK	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
WALLINGFORD PLAYFIELD	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
WALT HUNTLEY PLAYFIELD	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
WARREN G. MAGNUSON PARK BEACH	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
WARREN G. MAGNUSON PARK SPORT	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
WEST MAGNOLIA PLAYFIELD - North	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
WEST MAGNOLIA PLAYFIELD - South	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
WESTCREST PARK	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
WESTCREST PARK NEW	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
WOODLAND PARK 50TH	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm

NAME	OPERATING TIMES
WOODLAND PARK BOWLING GREEN	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
WOODLAND PARK CLOVER LEAF	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
WOODLAND PARK PINK PALACE	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
WOODLAND PARK RIO	7 am – 7:00/9:00 pm
PARKS SHOWER PROGRAM	
DELTRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTER	M-Th: 1-6p, Fri: 1-5p
GREEN LAKE COMMUNITY CENTER	M-F: 10a-8p; Sat: 9a-4:30p
MEADOWBROOK COMMUNITY CENTER	M-F: 2:30-7:30p; Sat: 9a-2p
RAINIER COMMUNITY CENTER	M-Th: 9:30a-8p; Fri: 9:30a-5p; Sat: 9:30a-4p
SPU COMFORT STATIONS	
BENVENUTO VIEWPOINT	Open 24 Hours
CAL ANDERSON PARK	Open 24 Hours
CITY HALL PARK	Open 24 Hours
JEFFERSON PARK	Open 24 Hours
LAKE CITY COMMUNITY CENTER	Open 24 Hours
WESTCREST PARK	Open 24 Hours
HSD-FUNDED DAY CENTER SHOWER FACILITIES	
ANGELINE'S DAY CENTER	8a-6p
MARY'S PLACE	M-F: 7a-3:30p; Sat: 9a-1p
LAZARUS DAY CENTER	7a-6:30p
PETER'S PLACE DAY CENTER	M-F: 7a-3:30p
JEFFERSON DAY CENTER	7a-7p
WOMEN'S WELLNESS CENTER	M-F: 7a-10:45a; Sat: 7a-12:30p
SEATTLE INDIAN CENTER DROP-IN CENTER	M-F: 8a-3p
PSKS HYPE DAY CENTER	M, T, W, F: 12-3p
IMMANUEL COMMUNITY SERVICES	8a-2p
OTHER RESTROOMS	
CITY HALL	M-F: 7a-6p
LIHI URBAN REST STOP - DOWNTOWN	M-F: 5:30a-9:30p (closed 11a-2p F); Sat-Sun: 8a-3p
LIHI URBAN REST STOP - BALLARD	M-F: 6:30a-10:30a; 11:30a-2:30p
LIHI URBAN REST STOP - U DISTRICT	T-Th: 9a-11:30a; 1-5:30p; F: 9a-11:30a; 1-5p