

City of Portland | Health & Human Services Department

Kristen Dow, *Director*



To: Mayor Snyder and Members of the Portland City Council

CC: Danielle West, City Manager

From: Kristen Dow, Director of Health & Human Services

Date: June 2, 2023

Re: Expo Temporary Emergency Shelter Update

On Monday April 12th, 2023 the Portland Expo was opened as a temporary emergency shelter for asylum-seeking families who were in overflow spaces in a middle school gymnasium and in the day space at our Family Shelter. Within the first week of opening, we quickly reached the 300-person capacity of the space and to date we have remained at or close to capacity.

Our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) command staff continues to hold briefings twice per week. Operations have been going smoothly, with 393 unduplicated individuals served; 3 meals per day served on site; 336 medical screenings and 764 vaccines administered on site; 352 registered volunteers; and 15 different service providers providing services on site.

Use of the Expo for emergency shelter was always intended to be temporary. With that in mind, a subgroup of the EOC command staff has begun discussing the decommissioning of the space, and has determined that Wednesday, August 16th will be the closing date of the emergency shelter. This will allow for necessary cleaning and restoration ahead of the first scheduled event on September 8th.

No new shelter guests will be admitted to the Expo after Monday, June 5, to ensure the building is completely vacated by the decommissioning deadline. This will allow for just over 9 weeks for staff to rehouse the families currently at the Expo. This depopulation/rehousing strategy was used effectively when the Expo was last activated as a temporary emergency shelter (in 2019), as well as more recently at the temporary emergency shelter operating out of the Days Inn in South Portland. We are hopeful that this will allow us time to have the same level of success through a variety of housing and sheltering methods.