

Outreach Winterization and COVID-19 Strategies

- ✚ Plan for cold and inclement weather before the season begins
 - Strategize with staff on alternate outreach solutions, staffing during bad weather, and the conditions for shutting down outreach
 - Talk to participants about if and how their use changes with the winter so that outreach tactics can be adapted

- ✚ Develop and keep a consistent outreach schedule
 - Dependability helps participants to know where to find your services, even in bad weather
 - A fixed schedule can help participants plan for limiting exposure to severe temperatures

- ✚ Employ multiple tactics to notify participants of closures, location changes, or modifications to supply allotments, etc.
 - Social media, text blasts, email, pre-recorded phone messages
 - Post outreach schedules, inclement weather policies, and alternate locations/solutions (if applicable) where participants can easily access them
 - Package notices with supply bundles

- ✚ If supply allows, give participants 2-3 times the amount of supplies ahead of bad weather to limit participant burden
 - Discuss with participants a winter weather plan to lessen overdose risk and how to make supplies last
 - Provide suggestions on how to utilize household supplies for wound care, sterile supplies, etc. as alternative solutions if participant supplies run out

- ✚ Partner with mutual aid programs to add harm reduction supplies to their offerings
 - Have staff join mobile food delivery staff on a run to give supplies and discuss harm reduction strategies
 - Offer to have free food giveaway at your location to meet more participant needs
 - If a program will not allow supplies to be given, ask if they will allow information leaflets to be given



- ✚ Sponsor a clothing drive for winter gear
 - Hold one large drive to collect all items at once or do several small drives for specific items
 - Ex. A drive just for socks, gloves, hats, etc.
 - Keep items at a fixed site for participant pickup or leave items at specific locations in the community

- ✚ Map encampments, track how often outreach is visiting those locations
 - Encampments can be hard to find and easily overlooked areas of the community
 - The needs of encampments can look different than the participants typically seen
 - Tracking locations and encampment needs will help to ensure that they are not being over- or under-saturated with harm reduction supplies

- ✚ Think outside the box
 - Create a QR code for participants to order supplies
 - Make an online supply order form to limit cold weather exposure for both staff and participants
 - Try creative ways to stay connected to your participants, see what works and what does not
 - The only risk you take is not trying at all

- ✚ Get creative with COVID-19 funds, when allowed
 - Possible ideas are hand warmers, outdoor heaters, etc.