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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***** Press Release *****

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreak at MSC South Homeless Shelter April 10, 2020

San Francisco, CA – Today, San Francisco announced an outbreak at the Multi-Service Center South (MSC South), a City funded adult shelter operated by St. Vincent De Paul Society, and the implementation of their emergency response plans for the facility. As of this morning, 68 guests and two staff have tested positive for COVID-19. The City is continuing to test all guests and staff for COVID-19. As of Friday morning, out of the 144 tests administered, 71 people tested negative and 3 are still pending.

The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) will be converting the MSC South shelter into a COVID-19 Recovery Center to serve COVID-19 positive shelter guests. Medical personnel, including doctors and nurses, have been assigned to the site.

As of Friday morning, as part of the City's plan to reduce COVID-19 risk, 73 guests had been moved from the facility leaving only 103 guests remaining in the 340-person-capacity shelter. Other early City actions taken to mitigate COVID-19 exposure risk at congregate facilities included:

- Stopping all new intakes at MSC South and all congregate shelters on March 24.
- Relocating guests over 60 years old or in other vulnerable high-risk categories into isolation and quarantine sites.
- Implementing a shelter health screening tool at all shelters, navigation centers, and transitional housing programs to assess the health of each shelter guest and providing guidelines on how to assist guests who are symptomatic.
- Enhancing cleaning protocols, meal service, and physical distancing at shelters.

In response to the situation at MSC South, DPH in partnership with Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing is:

- Continuing contact tracing to assess who has been exposed to the virus.
- Converting the shelter to a Recovery Center.
- Deploying extensive and deep cleaning of the congregate space that was exposed.

[COVID-19 Daily Media Advisory/Update]
[April 10, 2020]

- Testing all guests and staff at MSC South for COVID-19 and relocating guests to hotels as indicated by test results.
- Continuing to assess the situation and adapt our response accordingly.
- Ensuring that all COVID-19 positive patients are receiving the health care they need.
- Ensuring that all COVID-19 positive staff have access to isolation and quarantine hotels.

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