**COVID-19 Awareness Screening Tool Available in the HMIS**

There is now a screening tool for COVID-19 awareness available in AWARDS/HMIS to all programs to use for any client.  This screening tool (titled:  COVID-19 Awareness Screening) is intended to help programs manage activities related to client awareness, potential personal contact, and general symptom monitoring.

***\*Please note:  This is not intended to be a medical screening or diagnostic tool.****This tool is intended to assist programs manage activities related to your clients and the COVID-19 virus, it does not take the place of an actual medical diagnosis.  You are not required by any funding entity to use this screening tool.*

**To access the screening tool in AWARDS/HMIS:**

*Home* > Charts > Medical > Forms: COVID 19 Awareness Screening

If you have any questions, or can't locate the screening tool in AWARDS, please contact the HMIS Team at the Long Island Coalition for the Homeless.

**A Note About HMIS Data Quality During The Coronavirus Outbreak**

During these difficult times, the most vulnerable in our region continue to require housing and services and we greatly appreciate the hard work and courage of those at our provider agencies. Continuing to accurately reflect the active roster of your housing programs in our HMIS is as important now as it has ever been.  We know however that changes to normal program operations and staffing concerns may impact a program’s ability to keep up with the demands of timely HMIS data entry.

As we move forward, we ask that if you are having difficulty or are unable to keep up with your program’s new HMIS intakes and discharges, to please send us a note indicating that.

It’s important that we at the Long Island Coalition for the Homeless, as the HMIS Lead and CoC Lead for Nassau and Suffolk counties, understand the state of our HMIS data quality so we can continue to use the data to make housing and intervention decisions with our clients.

Please continue to be safe as you balance the needs of your personal safety with your professional and community obligations.

**HMIS Trainings**

The HMIS team is working on remote, online training for HMIS new users and should have some information soon on how this will work and when it will start. Since HMIS new user training is hand-on and typically relies on a face-to-face setting, remote training on the software poses some challenges. What we can tell you is this:

* The trainings will be conducted one-on-one, likely using Webex
* The trainee will need to have a laptop to access the training program in the HMIS website, and will need a second device (cell phone is fine) to follow along on Webex
* The training will cover all the important HMIS fundamentals but would be significantly shorter than the current full-day duration
* A package of “how to” documents would supplement the online training