



# Colorado Balance of State Continuum of Care

## 2021 Observational Unsheltered PIT Count Instructions

### For the Surveyor:

Work with the Point-in-Time Agency/Volunteer Lead person to discuss safety precautions prior to conducting the surveys. When outdoors, maintain safe social distancing (6-8 feet) and work out safe travel arrangements prior.

### Make sure:

- To review the “Interim Guidance on Unsheltered Homelessness and Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) for Homeless Service Providers and Local Officials” via the Center for Disease Control (CDC):  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/unsheltered-homelessness.html>
  - That the space offers appropriate social distancing and safety precautions for the Covid-19 pandemic.
  - All volunteers are wearing masks and other PPE to help reduce risk of Covid-19 exposure.
- Prior to conducting observational surveys, develop a safety plan with the PIT Lead. This might include but is not limited to:
  - Coded language to use with staff/other surveyors if you’re feeling unsafe while completing Observational Surveys.
  - Work in teams at a safe social distance of 6-8 feet.

### When conducting the Observational Count forms, the following tips/further survey information can be helpful.

- The first sets of questions are fairly straightforward. We’re trying to make sure to have accurate information to be able to reference back to and make sure surveys are not duplicated as much as possible.
- A separate survey needs to be created for each household member, with household members indicated by the numbers/letters you assign them. This is one of the reasons why it’s important you include your name on the survey, so we can tell we’re looking at a different person if another volunteer has used a similar numbering system.
  - **Observation #:** If the examples provided on the Observational Count survey are difficult to understand, reach out to the PIT Count Lead in your area for clarification.
- The follow-up to “Is the Person Sleeping?” is designed to help our consultant know that there are specific reasons the surveyor believes the person they are observing is actually experiencing homelessness.
- The last section of the survey is specific for any surveyors who know the person they are observing. If you have worked with the person or have encountered them enough to know their demographic information, indicate that here.