

Increasing access to COVID- 19 vaccines for homeless people

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FEANTSA



- Only European NGO working exclusively to prevent and end homelessness
- Across Europe over 140 members including homelessness services, cities, ministries, foundations, housing providers, public health actors, researchers & think tanks
- Monitor homelessness, develop integrated strategies and facilitate mutual learning, transnational exchanges & capacity building

Overview

- Homelessness in the EU
- COVID-19 and Homelessness
- Responses of homelessness sector
- Vaccines delivery among homeless populations
- Learnings and recommendations

Homelessness in the EU


700 000 people on any given night





Health and Homelessness

- Extremely poor health outcomes
- Mortality rates 3-6 times higher
- Poor access to health care (underserved population) and to public health information
- Housing as social determinant of health
- Social and clinical vulnerability

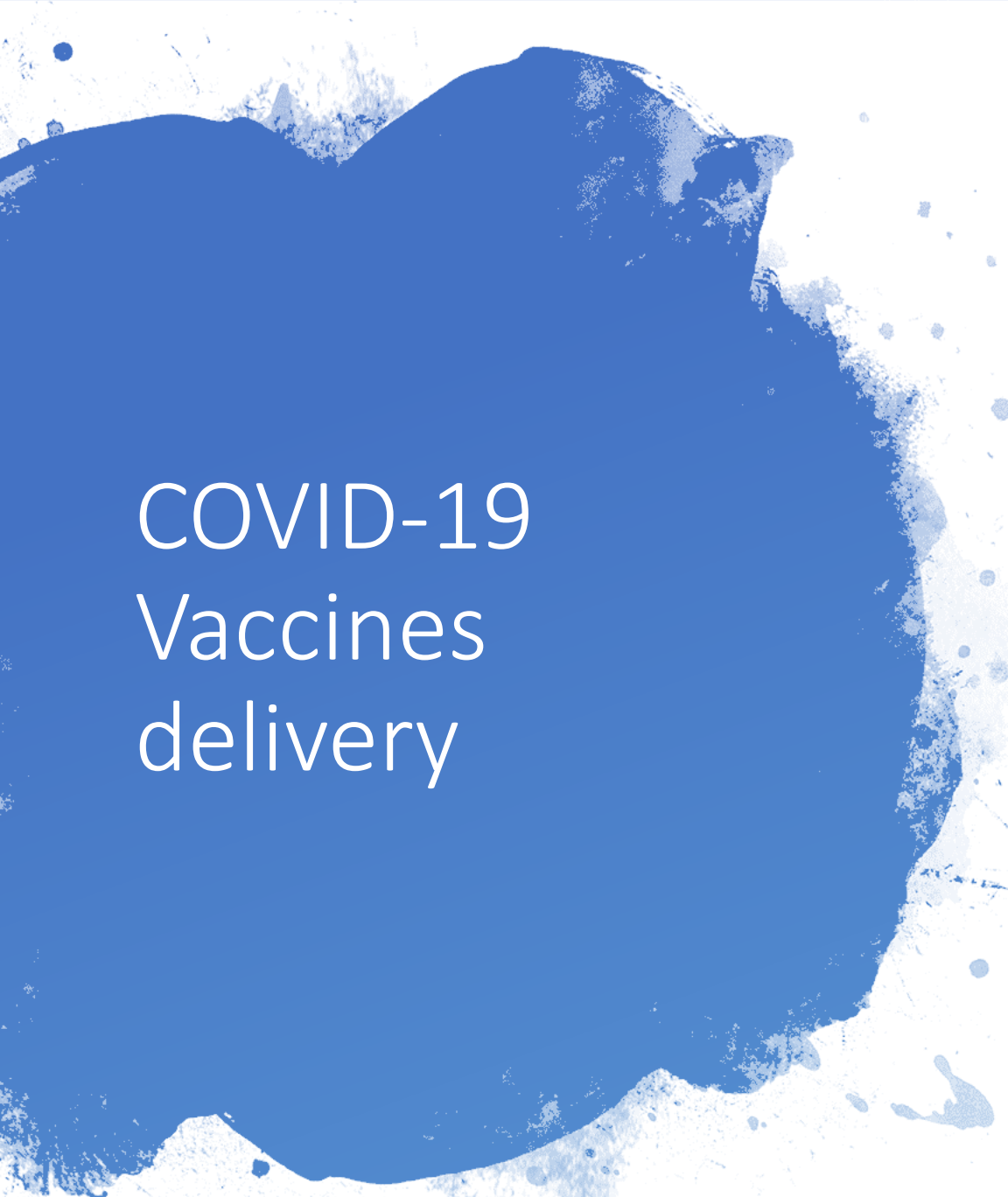


COVID-19: Homelessness cannot be ignored

- People experiencing homelessness considered to be one of the most at-risk groups
- Lockdown 'stay home' message: Homelessness visible
- Measures introduced to protect homeless people and to limit transmission:
 - ✓ Targeted public health measures
 - ✓ New temporary accommodation
 - ✓ Prevention

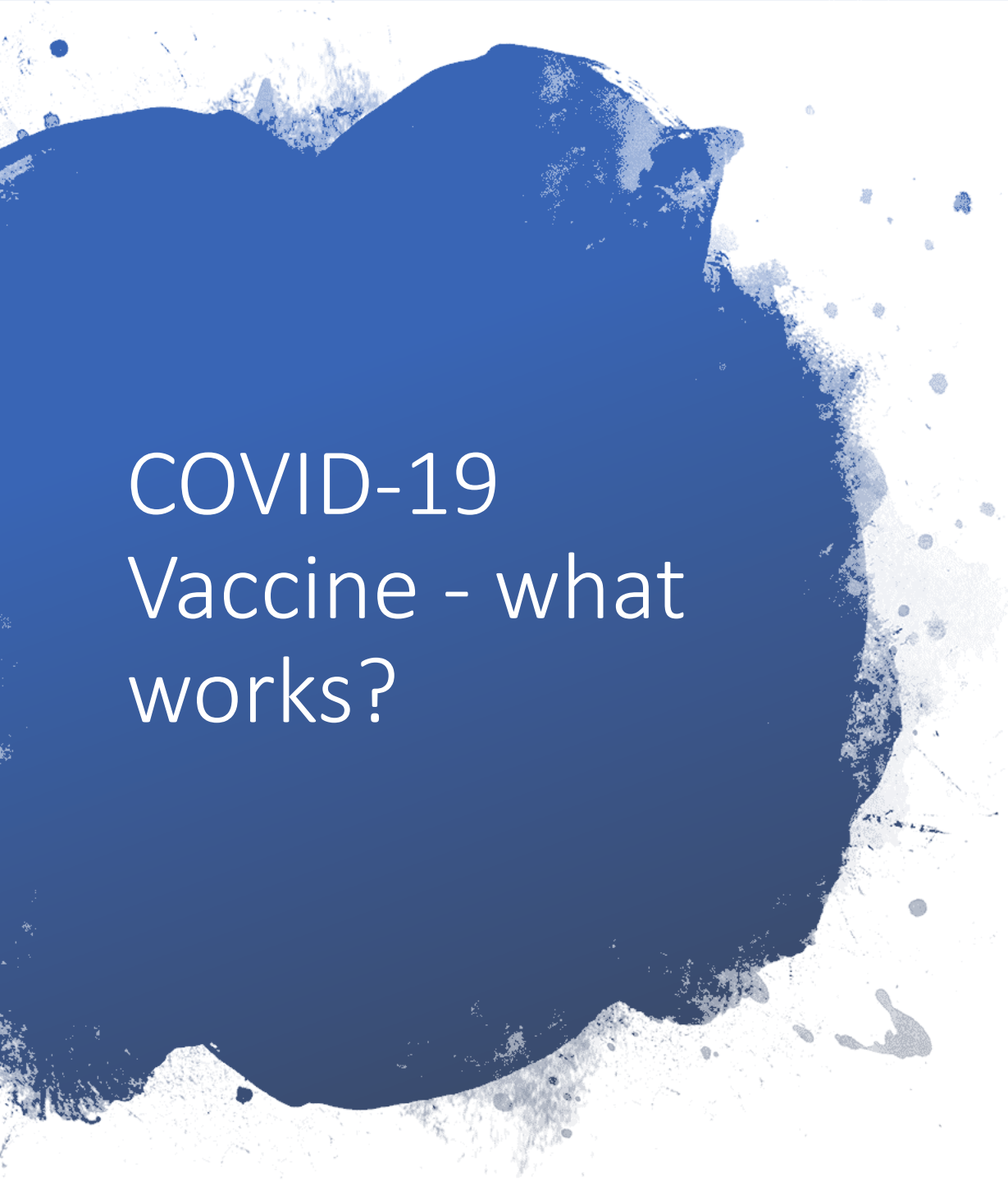
COVID-19 Vaccines - Push for prioritisation

- Homeless people as high priority group varies among countries and regions
- Fear of homeless people being overlooked – seen as ‘undeserving’
- Persons whose state of health makes them particularly at risk: Clinical vulnerability
- Persons who cannot socially distance: High risks of outbreak in homeless settings
- More disadvantaged socio-economic groups



COVID-19 Vaccines delivery

- Address access barriers
- Tailored approach
- Specific strategy and joint local delivery plans
- Planning and partnership working with homelessness services
- Drop in vaccination centers (without appointment)
- In-reach and outreach mobile (homeless) health teams



COVID-19 Vaccine - what works?

- Planning, partnerships and networks
- Preparation
- Information
- Relationship, peer advocates
- Build trust confidence
- Safe and trauma-informed environment
- Use of language
- Address hesitancy
- Support registering with primary care services
- Addressing competing needs-

Vaccines does not make homelessness safe

- **Housing** social determinant of health
- Homelessness is an extremely damaging experience that can pose a risk to life
- Current policy and service response to homelessness is inadequate
- Access to safe and secure housing, with support as needed, is the ultimate solution to homelessness
- Build Back Better – opportunity to move from managing to ending homelessness
- **European Platform on Homelessness** launched this week – EU steps up efforts to combat homelessness
- All 27 EU member states have agreed to sign the **Lisbon Declaration on combatting homelessness**.



Thank you!