## 6 Facility Accessibility Quick-Check Tool

Services provided directly by the government, by government contractors, or supported with government funds, must be presented in facilities that meet certain accessibility standards, even during disasters or public health emergencies. Public health preparedness and planning activities should include identifying accessible locations to provide emergency health services.

The following series of questions can be used as an accessibility assessment tool during an initial survey or annual review, or during daily operations. The tool includes select questions from the Department of Justice (DOJ) Accessibility Standards for Emergency Shelters, but does not include the full DOJ checklist. A thorough accessibility assessment should be conducted periodically, as determined by local jurisdictional plans.

## Parking Lot

Department of Justice ADA Emergency Shelter Accessibility Toolkit. The graphic below is an example of an accessible parking lot.


Inspect the parking lot, particularly the accessible parking spaces and surrounding area and paths. Confirm the following accessibility features:

| Parking Lot Checklist | Yes/No <br> Check |
| :--- | :---: |
| Minimum number of accessible parking spaces are available. |  |
| Each accessible parking space is clearly marked with the <br> symbol of accessibility. |  |
| Accessible parking spaces are along the shortest accessible <br> route to the accessible entrance. |  |
| Clear, accessible paths of travel connect parking areas to <br> accessible building entrance. | $\square$ |
| At least one van-accessible parking space is available. |  |

## Sidewalks



Inspect the sidewalks and walkways that connect the parking areas, including accessible parking areas, passenger drop-off locations, and public transit stops at the entrances and exits. Confirm the following accessibility features:

| Sidewalk Checklist | Yes/No <br> Check |
| :--- | :---: |
| A sidewalk and/or walkway connects both the parking area and <br> passenger drop-off areas to the path that leads to the <br> accessible entrance of building. | $\square$ |
| An accessible route is available from the public sidewalk to the <br> accessible entrance of the building. | $\square$ |
| Curb cuts are located along accessible routes. | $\square$ |
| Sidewalks and walkways are free of objects, cracks in concrete, <br> steps, or changes in level that exceed $1 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ (one-half inch). | $\square$ |

## Entrances and Exits



Inspect the main entrance to and exit from the building, and confirm the following features:

| Entrances and Exits Checklist | Yes/No <br> Check |
| :--- | :---: |
| Door to the entrance can be opened with one hand without <br> tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist. |  |
| If the door is not automatic or power-operated, there is <br> adequate clearance on the latch/pull side of the door so that a <br> person using a wheelchair can maneuver. |  |
| If the main entrance is not accessible, there is directional <br> signage indicating the location of the accessible entrance. |  |
| There is space available for a wheelchair user to approach, <br> maneuver, and open the door. |  |

## Routes to All Service Areas

There should be an accessible route from the entrance to and exit from the building to all service areas. Inspect the paths of travel throughout the facility, including use of the elevator or wheelchair lift, and confirm the following:

| Routes to All Service Areas Checklist | Yes/No |
| :--- | :--- |
| Check |  |
| There is an accessible route that connects the entrance to all <br> programs, services, or activities areas, including those located on <br> different levels (for example, elevator, ramp, or lift is used to reach <br> different levels). |  |
| Elevator or wheelchair lift can be operated automatically without <br> having to use a designated key or turn it on from a remote <br> location. |  |
| Doorways along accessible routes are at least 36 inches wide and <br> easily open or are equipped with a lever handle. |  |
| Hall call buttons for the elevator are no higher than 48 inches <br> from the floor. |  |
| Elevator is equipped with audible tones or announcements that <br> indicate floor level. |  |
| Raised letters and Braille characters are used to identify each |  |
| control button in the elevator. | $\boxed{\square}$ |
| Elevator is spacious enough to allow a wheelchair user to enter, <br> maneuver around, and easily reach the controls. |  |
| There is a source of backup power to operate the elevator and |  |
| established procedures to utilize backup power when needed. |  |

## Restrooms



If possible, designate a single restroom as a "family restroom" to more easily accommodate those accompanied by a family member, caregiver, or attendant. Inspect the restrooms to confirm the following features:

| Restrooms Checklist | Yes/No <br> Check |
| :--- | :--- |
| Restroom entrances have universal access symbols on doors. |  |
| Restroom entrances have a raised and Braille sign located on <br> the latch side of the door. |  |
| Bathroom sink has 19-inch clearance underneath that provides <br> space for a person using a wheelchair. |  |
| Built-in dispensers or receptacles are mounted so they do not <br> protrude more than 4 inches from the wall and 27 inches <br> above the floor. |  |
| The drain and hot water pipes below the sink are insulated or <br> covered to protect against contact. |  |
| Accessible stall is located at the end of the row of toilet stalls <br> or, if not, the door opens out. |  |
| Accessible stall has horizontal grab bars (minimum 42 inches) <br> mounted on the side wall (at 33 to 36 inches) above and <br> parallel to the floor. |  |

## Water Fountain



If the facility is equipped with a water fountain, confirm the following features:

| Water Fountain Checklist | Yes/No <br> Check |
| :--- | :--- |
| For a wall-mounted unit, there is adequate clear floor space in <br> front and under the fountain so that a person using a <br> wheelchair can get close to the spout and controls. |  |
| For a floor-mounted unit, there is clear floor space for a side <br> approach so that a person in a wheelchair can get close to the <br> spout and controls even though the fountain has no space <br> under it. |  |
| The top of the spout at the front of the fountain is no higher <br> than 36 inches above the floor. |  |
| The water rises to at least 4 inches high when fountain <br> controls are pushed with gentle force. | \begin{tabular}{\|l|}
\hline
\end{tabular} |
| The controls are on, or near, the front of the unit and can be <br> operated with one hand without tight grasping, pinching, or <br> twisting of the wrist. |  |

## CDC Statement

This project was supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award to the CDC Foundation totaling $\$ 1,900,000.00$ with 100 percent funded by CDC/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CDC/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

