



Douglas County Public Health

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COVID-19: *Testing Increasing in Northwestern WI with National Guard Assistance*

Douglas County— Public Health announced today that local public health programs in Wisconsin's western region have requested assistance from the WI National Guard to scale up COVID-19 testing. Douglas County Public Health and Emergency Management are partnering with Washburn County to host a community "drive-up" specimen collection site in Solon Springs on **Wednesday, May 6th 2020 from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm.**

Anyone 5 years and older with any of the following symptoms are eligible for nasal swab testing: fever, cough, loss of taste/smell, shortness of breath, sore throat, fatigue, body aches, diarrhea, vomiting or nausea, chills, shaking with chills, or muscle aches.

This is a test to determine if you currently have COVID-19 disease. Testing through the collection site will be free of cost and is only available to Wisconsin residents, including those in other Wisconsin counties. We plan to test up to 250 people throughout the day.

The drive-through collection site will be held at the Solon Springs Community Center at 11523 S. Business Hwy 53 with cars lining up from the north end of Business Hwy 53. Please have patience and drive with caution. Follow directions for entering the line and completing paperwork. The nasal swab test will be obtained while the person remains in their car.

Following testing, people should return straight home and isolate themselves until they receive their test results and further guidance from Public Health. Every person who is tested will be informed of their results by phone, usually within two or three days.

Providing a mass COVID-19 testing site offers a better understanding of the presence of the virus in our communities. This will only be a moment-in-time snapshot of its current activity but will be an important part of the story. Public Health is committed to increasing COVID-19 testing in our community. We greatly appreciate the Wisconsin National Guard's support of this goal.

"If we get positive cases through this event, we will be able to isolate those people and trace their contacts to stop further spread in our communities. If there aren't many positive cases as a result of this event, we can use that data to explore reopening activities. A lack of positive cases as a result of this event doesn't mean we're in the clear- it means we are doing a great job of limiting contacts and need to keep physical distancing" said Kathy Ronchi.

There are plans for additional testing sites throughout the Western Region of Wisconsin over the next few weeks. These testing sites will be added to the Western WI Public Health Readiness Consortium webpage: <http://wwphrc.org/covid-19-community-testing>.

Wisconsin residents who are experiencing symptoms but are unable to participate in this community testing event should contact their healthcare provider.

More information about this community testing site will be available soon on the Douglas County website.

- Douglas County Webpage: <https://www.douglascountywi.org/>
 - Douglas County COVID-19 Dashboard: <https://www.douglascountywi.org/1124/COVID-19-Updates>
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