

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: May 23, 2020

Contact: Shawn Benjamin
Desk: (414) 286-3780
Cell: (414) 316-8316
Email: sbenja@milwaukee.gov

Important Updates about the WING-Milwaukee Community COVID-19 testing sites

The temporary WING- Milwaukee Community COVID-19 testing locations have been wildly successful. Two weeks since the start of this initiative, 20,000 people have been tested between the two testing sites, Midtown on the north side and UMOS on the south side. Mayor Tom Barrett and Commissioner of Health, Dr. Jeanette Kowalik would like to continue community testing as long as the Wisconsin National Guard is available. We recognize that this is a temporary initiative to address limitations in access to COVID-19 testing and capacity in the Greater Milwaukee Area.

The City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) is working with the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services, National Guard, Exact Sciences (lab provider), and local healthcare providers to setup community testing locations that are in areas of town with the highest incidence (new cases) of COVID-19 and where there are gaps in access to testing. As of this week, four out of the top five neighborhoods with the greatest incidence of COVID-19 are on the south side: *Muskego Way, Lincoln Village, Clarke Square, and Saveland Park*. With this in mind, the number of people tested at the Midtown location had reduced dramatically after the first week. The community testing initiative planning team also determined that there are eight other points of access to testing on the north side. Therefore, Saturday May 23rd will be the final day of testing at the Midtown location. A new location will be selected. If the public has ideas or opportunities to stand up the next community

testing site on the north side, please email us at MHDCOMMS@MILWAUKEE.GOV . Our goal is to have another north side community testing site live on June 1st.

The WING-Milwaukee Community-UMOS testing site will continue to operate next week in the same location. This decision was based on sustained demand for testing in the area and a higher incidence of COVID-19 and positivity rate (higher numbers of persons testing positive) as well as limited access to testing:

2701 S. Chase Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53207

No testing on Sunday 5/24 or Monday 5/25

Testing resumes Tuesday 5/26

Hours remain 11 am to 8 pm through Saturday 5/30

Delayed Test Results - Exact Sciences is the laboratory responsible for processing samples from this community testing initiative with the support of the Wisconsin National Guard. Due to the high volume of samples collected across the State, the Exact Sciences laboratory has experienced delays in processing samples as well as importing results into the Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System which is used to notify public health departments and provides access to test results. This has led to significant delays in communicating results not only to people that were tested in the City of Milwaukee, but other jurisdictions throughout Wisconsin. Exact Sciences is working to rectify the situation as quickly as possible to improve turnaround time for test results and to assure public health departments have access to information in a timely manner. *We want to also alert the public that test results calls from Exact Sciences will come from a 608 area code and calls from MHD will come from phone numbers starting with 414-286.*

Please visit our website <https://city.milwaukee.gov/coronavirus> for updated information or Call 2-1-1 for COVID-19 information and resources.

Have a safe Memorial Day Holiday Weekend!

###