



Chippewa County Department of Public Health

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chippewa Co. Partners with Neighboring Counties to Offer Free COVID-19 Testing with National Guard Assistance

Chippewa Falls, WI – May 5, 2020 8:29 AM – Local public health departments in the Western Wisconsin region have requested assistance from the Wisconsin National Guard to scale up COVID-19 testing. The National Guard will be providing drive-through COVID-19 nasal swab testing. Chippewa County is partnering with neighboring counties to host two community COVID-19 testing events.

Clark, Taylor, and Chippewa Counties

Location: Thorp High School
Address: 605 S Clark St, Thorp, WI 54771
Date: May 13, 2020
Time: 11 AM – 7 PM

Chippewa and Rusk Counties

Location: Rusk County Fairgrounds
Address: Fairgrounds Rd, Ladysmith, WI 54848
Date: May 14, 2020
Time: 11 AM – 7 PM

Anyone 5 years and older with at least one of the following symptoms: fever, cough, loss of taste/smell, shortness of breath, sore throat, fatigue, body aches, diarrhea, vomiting, nausea, chills, or muscle aches can get tested. The events are only available to Wisconsin residents.

Individuals who request testing will be asked to provide a current address, county of residence, and phone number when they arrive for testing. Testing is free at these events. There are a limit number of testing kits available at each event. Please be aware that if testing kits run out, those not tested may be turned away.

Due to the unknown amount of interest, prepare for potential wait time. There will not be public restrooms available. It is requested that modes of transportation (cars, horse drawn buggies, etc.) form a line while waiting for testing, and that those who want to be tested, **stay in or on their mode of transportation at all times**. The National Guard will be doing the testing. They will be in uniform and in full PPE (personal protective equipment including gowns, mask, gloves, etc.) during the events.

“Widespread testing is important to help our communities get back to normal. By knowing where individuals with COVID-19 are, we can better track and contain the virus. These testing events are the first steps towards having widespread testing in our area,” said Angela Weideman, Chippewa County Health Officer/Director.

There are alternative testing sites in the Western Region throughout the beginning of May, including a location in Eau Claire. Eau Claire and Dunn counties partnered to host an event on May 10, 2020 from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM and May 11, 2020 from 11 AM – 7 PM at CVTC/Prevea Health (617 W Clairemont Rd, Eau Claire, WI 54701). Wisconsin residents who has symptoms are able to attend any of the testing events regardless of their county of residence. For a full list of testing events happening in the Western Region, visit: <http://wwphrc.org/covid-19-community-testing/>.

Following testing, people should return straight home and follow instructions that will be given after testing. Test results will be provided via phone by the National Guard or the Public Health Department in a timely manner. If there are questions about the event, contact Chippewa County Department of Public Health at 715-726-7900 or covid@co.chippewa.wi.us.

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