

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAGINAW COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES OUTPATIENT COVID-19 TESTING SITES

(SAGINAW) – The Saginaw County Health Department announces that public health system partners will begin operating outpatient sampling and screening sites offering COVID-19 testing to people **with a lab order from their doctor or health care provider.**

If someone is experiencing fever, cough, and shortness of breath they need to contact their health care provider for possible testing. Healthcare providers will be assessing patients for risk factors and providing direction on where they can be tested. If you don't have a healthcare provider we strongly encourage people to establish with one in the community.

Great Lakes Bay Health Center began testing on Tuesday, March 24th in the parking lot of the David R. Gamez community health center located at 501 Lapeer Street in Saginaw. Hours of operation will be Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., or until testing supplies run out each day.

Covenant will offer testing beginning Wednesday, March 25th at the Visiting Nurses Association, 502 S. Hamilton Street in Saginaw from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., 7 days a week.

The State of Michigan will offer another outpatient sampling and screening site in Saginaw. Patients referred by their provider to this location will receive the address on their lab order form. This location will be open 7 days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. by appointment only.

Dr. Delicia Pruitt, MD, Medical Director of the Saginaw County Health Department says, "We are trying to expand the number of tests offered in the community to better determine the spread of disease. Health Department staff and our public health system partners will conduct contact tracing and monitoring for positive COVID-19 individuals and their contacts. Contact tracing helps make possible earlier diagnosis (often within 72 hours) and getting care to people who need it. The information can also help contain clusters of illness within a particular family or community group." Dr. Pruitt added,

“If a contact of a COVID-19 positive case develops symptoms, the early identification can ensure that they are isolated at home and not spreading the virus to anyone else. This helps reduce the number of cases, limits illness transmission, and ultimately, will help save the lives of those most vulnerable to this virus.”

The Saginaw County Health Department will also continue to perform surveillance of the virus throughout the county, and providing situational updates and guidance to the public, media, and community partners.

Additional COVID-19 information can be obtained from reputable sources like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (www.michigan.gov/coronavirus) and the Saginaw County Health Department (www.saginawpublichealth.org).

The Health Department’s COVID-19 informational hotline is also available at (989) 758-3828. For regular updates, follow the Saginaw County Health Department on Facebook.

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