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Grand Traverse County Health Department offering COVID-19 testing appointments at off-site location

As COVID-19 cases continue to rise in the state, region and county, demand for testing does too. In an effort to meet the demand, the Grand Traverse County Health Department (GTCHD) is now offering free drive-thru COVID-19 testing at an off-site location weekly. The pop-up site located at the Cherryland Mall (1700 South Garfield Rd. Traverse City, MI 49686) provides COVID-19 testing **by appointment only** on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

"After partnering with the National Guard and other community partners at some community-wide testing events earlier in the pandemic, we began the process of exploring testing options for our community that offered more consistent and reliable results at a stand alone site," said Emergency Preparedness Director, Mike Lahey. "It was just a matter of securing a space and additional staffing and resources before we could offer the testing on a more regular basis."

"Since the beginning of the pandemic, testing capacity has lagged in our region and county. Testing, isolating and identifying positive COVID-19 cases will help prevent further spread in our community which is currently happening at a consistent and fast pace," said Health Officer, Wendy Hirschenberger. "Our county needed more options for consistent testing and we were able to secure the resources and logistics to make it happen. It is no small feat to stand up a testing site and our testing team made it happen."

Testing is available to anyone regardless of symptoms. A doctor's order is **not** needed and there is no charge to be tested. **Testing is done by appointment** only by following this link:
<https://gtcovidtesting.simplybook.it/v2/>.

Tests are for diagnostic purposes (this is not an antibody test) and will be sent to a laboratory for analysis. **Results will be delivered electronically through Honu Labs.** Please do not contact your local health department to ask for results. As cases continue to increase at their current rate, the GTCHD has had to make the difficult decision to prioritize case investigations and you may not receive a call from us. If you have school-age children, they should stay home from school and all school-related activities as part of their quarantine.

We continue to urge anyone that receives a positive COVID-19 test to please self-isolate. Additionally, notify any of your close contacts that they will need to quarantine for 10 days from their last contact with you and monitor for symptoms. Symptoms include: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea.

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