



FREE COVID-19 RAPID Test Community Event
Lorain County Health & Dentistry to provide free RAPID Test at 1205 Broadway in Lorain.

Lorain County Health & Dentistry (LCH&D), a Community Health Center, will hold a COVID-19 Community-wide Testing Event at 1205 Broadway, in Lorain, on Sunday, December 20 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. LCH&D will test using the COVID-19 Rapid Test. Those desiring a Rapid Test will drive-through the testing area at 1205 Broadway and remain in their vehicle to receive the nasal swab test through an open window. No walk-ups will be permitted. Lorain Police will be on duty to assist with traffic control.

“Lorain County Health & Dentistry held five free community-wide testing events from June through October, all using the PCR (molecular) Test. Thousands received a free test. We know from this experience that the general public desires access to local, no cost COVID-19 testing,” said Stephanie Wiersma, LCH&D CEO. “The event on Sunday, December 20, will be different for two reasons: it will be held at our testing drive-thru area at 1205 Broadway; and, we will use the RAPID Test for the first time at a public event,” Wiersma said.

Testing is available for all persons, including those without symptoms. There are no age restrictions. No doctor’s order is needed. LCH&D will provide the Rapid Test at no cost. Insurance is not required and no questions about insurance will be asked. No pre-registration is required. All are welcome.

“The Rapid COVID-19 test is different from the PCR test in several ways,” said Jessica Springer, CNP, and LCH&D Clinical Officer. “While we collect the nasal specimen in the same basic way for both tests, the Rapid test is an antigen test which detects virus proteins. The PCR test detects genetic material specific to the virus. Results are much quicker with the Rapid test but this test isn’t as sensitive as the PCR. The Rapid test does not always yield accurate results and for this reason we always urge someone receiving a positive Rapid result to follow up quickly with a more accurate PCR test.”

“We expect that families will gather for the holidays, and some will travel long distances,” said Wiersma. Having a negative COVID-19 test result prior to travel, and isolating as much as possible after receiving the result, will help to lessen the spread and keep people safe. We hope the community will take advantage of this free testing event right before the holidays,” Wiersma said.

On December 20, results will be available very quickly. LCH&D will phone those who test positive within 30 minutes. They will be urged to follow up with a PCR test as soon as possible, and to isolate in the meanwhile.

Persons unable to attend the free Rapid Test event on December 20 may call Lorain County Health & Dentistry during normal business hours at (440) 240-1655 to schedule a PCR test. This test requires a telehealth visit from a LCH&D provider in advance of the test. LabCorp will process the specimen and results are generally available in 2-4 days. The PCR test is free while the telehealth visit is submitted to insurance for those who are insured. PCR tests are available by appointment on Monday-Friday, as well as select Saturdays.

Lorain County Health & Dentistry, a not-for-profit Community Health Center, provides primary and preventive medical, behavioral health, dental and eye care at seven Lorain County locations, regardless of ability to pay. LCH&D is a 2020 National Quality Leader and ranks in the top 1% of all 1,400 community health centers nationwide for heart health, and in the top 20% for overall clinical performance.

For more information about Lorain County Health & Dentistry, please visit our website at www.lorainhealth-dentistry.org or call (440) 240-1655. Safe Care. Safe Place. That is LCH&D.

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