

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

VALERIE A. ARKOOSH, MD, MPH, CHAIR

KENNETH E. LAWRENCE, JR., VICE CHAIR

JOSEPH C. GALE, COMMISSIONER



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

MONTGOMERY COUNTY E.O.C. • 50 EAGLEVILLE ROAD

NORRISTOWN, PA 19403

610-631-6500

FAX: 610-631-6536

WWW.DPS.MONTCOPA.ORG

THOMAS M. SULLIVAN

DIRECTOR

Contacts:

Teresa Harris | Montgomery County Commissioners' Office | (610) 278-3062 | tharris@montcopa.org

Todd Stieritz | Montgomery County Dept. of Public Safety | (610) 631-6544 | tstierit@montcopa.org

For Immediate Release: March 19, 2020

Drive-Through COVID-19 Testing Site to Open in Montgomery County

Ambler, PA (March 19, 2020) – As has been communicated over the past several days, there has not been widespread access to testing for COVID-19 in Montgomery County. County officials have been working closely with local, state, and federal partners to fill this gap and increase testing availability.

On Saturday, March 21, 2020 at 10:00 AM, a drive-through testing location will open at Temple University's Ambler Campus in Upper Dublin Township. This site will provide testing by appointment only. There will not be any treatment conducted on site. Only individuals meeting one or more of the following four (4) criteria will be eligible for testing:

- Fever at or above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit *AND* respiratory symptoms such as cough or shortness of breath; *OR*
- Temperature at or above 99.6 degrees Fahrenheit *AND* 65 years of age or older; *OR*
- First responder (law enforcement, fire, EMS, or dispatcher) *AND* concern for exposure to a patient with suspected COVID-19 *OR* respiratory symptoms; *OR*
- Healthcare worker providing direct patient care *AND* testing not available through employer *AND* concern for exposure to a patient with suspected COVID-19 *OR* respiratory symptoms.

Due to the limited number of tests available, tests will be reserved for the high-risk individuals described above. Criteria may be enhanced or relaxed based on future availability of tests.

Testing site staff will conduct body temperature verification using non-contact infrared thermometers prior to administering COVID-19 tests. Individuals qualifying under requirements for age or first responder/healthcare worker status may be asked to provide proper identification. Individuals not meeting one of the above criteria or who lack this necessary documentation will be denied access to testing.

The site will remain open 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM daily by appointment only, as testing supplies allow. Online registration will begin at 8:00 PM on Friday, March 20, 2020. A link to register will be available on www.montcopa.org/COVID-19, as well as official Montgomery County government social media accounts. Individuals without access to the internet or who do not have an email address can call (610) 631-3000 starting at 8:00 AM on Saturday to register for a testing appointment.

Individuals arriving for testing should enter the campus via the entrance on the 1400 block of E. Butler Pike, Ambler, PA 19002 located approximately 100 feet northeast of the Community Ambulance

Association of Ambler parking lot. Only enclosed passenger vehicles and small vans and trucks will be permitted to enter the queue. Large commercial vehicles and motorcycles are prohibited, as are pedestrians.

Due to the limited number of tests currently available, generally healthy individuals who have mild symptoms and no underlying medical conditions do not need to be tested at this time. They should stay at home, call their healthcare provider, and self-isolate for a minimum of seven (7) days after the onset of symptoms and for at least three (3) days without a fever (without using fever-reducing medications). Since the treatment for COVID-19 is supportive care, the results of testing for these individuals will not change what they should do.

As has been communicated, before the general opening of the test site for individuals meeting one of the aforementioned four (4) criteria on Saturday, the site will open Friday for the testing of certain individuals pre-identified by the Montgomery County Office of Public Health (MCOPH). Anyone who has not been notified by MCOPH staff of their need to be tested should not show up to the site on Friday; they will be turned away.

Montgomery County officials are grateful to Upper Dublin Township, Temple University Ambler, the Pennsylvania National Guard, as well as other state and federal partners, for their assistance in this coordinated effort to mitigate this public health emergency.

For additional information on COVID-19, visit www.montcopa.org/COVID-19.

###