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Johnson County Department of Health and Environment offers appointment-based COVID-19 testing to symptomatic Johnson County residents

JOHNSON COUNTY, KAN. (May 14, 2020) – Johnson County, Kansas residents over the age of 18 with symptoms of coronavirus can now get a free COVID-19 test by making an online appointment with the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment (JCDHE). Residents should seek testing from their primary health care provider first before making an appointment at JCDHE. Supplies and appointment times are limited.

Testing begins on May 18 at the department’s Mission and Olathe offices. Residents can schedule an appointment at www.jocogov.org/coronavirus.

“Finding out who has COVID-19 in the community is important to containing the virus and reducing the spread. If we know who is ill, we can isolate that person and stop transmission of the virus,” says Dr. Sanmi Areola, director of the department.

Symptoms of COVID-19 typically appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus and include: fever, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell. Other less common symptoms have been reported, including gastrointestinal symptoms like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.

Areola says residents experiencing these symptoms are encouraged to get tested immediately as this is when people are most infectious and could transmit the virus to others.

The department will offer drive-thru testing in Olathe on Mondays and Wednesdays and walk-in testing in Mission on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m. Spanish-speakers who need assistance scheduling an appointment can call 913-826-1200 and press 1 for customer service.

(more)

“Adding this type of testing is part of the county’s overall strategy to test as many different segments of the population as possible,” says Areola. “Testing symptomatic residents gives us more data points to let us know how prevalent COVID-19 is in Johnson County. This data will help us determine if we are ready to move to the next phase of reopening the county.”

JCDHE’s Mission office is located at 6000 Lamar Ave. The Olathe office is located at 11875 S. Sunset Drive. If the public has questions about the testing process, they can call 913-715-2819, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or visit www.jocogov.org/coronavirus.

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