

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2020

City and County Announce Drive-Thru COVID-19 Testing

LAREDO, Texas—Webb County and the City of Laredo will open their first drive-thru COVID-19 testing site on Thursday, April 16, 2020. Patients with a prescription will enter the site at the Bartlett Soccer Complex at the West entrance on Gale/Thomas St. Operated by local health care and government agencies, the site will be available to local residents and surrounding counties so long as they have a doctor's order or an order from the City of Laredo Health Department. The drive-thru testing site will be open Thursday, April 16 and Friday, April 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Next week's schedule will be announced in a future press release.

Tests will be administered to persons who have a doctor's order, but all patients must call the Screening Hotline at (956) 795-4932 to get appointment. Patients must also bring their insurance information if they have health insurance. Those individuals who do not have access to a doctor and are showing symptoms can call the Screening Hotline where nurses will evaluate patients over the phone and approve them for testing at the drive-thru site. The Screening Hotline will be open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Patients will be tested through PCR swab testing. Results will be available within 3 days.

The following individuals will receive priority for COVID-19 testing:

- Those exposed to a positive case and who exhibit symptoms
- Person 65 years and older with underlying health conditions and symptoms
- Immunocompromised persons with symptoms
- First-responders who have been exposed or show symptoms

Health care and security personnel will be present to ensure that drive-thru protocols are followed.

Media will only be allowed to film outside of the park and ride area, on the sidewalk.

The drive-thru testing site will facilitate the county and city to meet the urgent needs of our community.

About COVID-19 RT-PCR tests, via FDA:

The COVID-19 RT-PCR test is a real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR) test for the qualitative detection of nucleic acid from SARS-CoV-2 in upper and lower respiratory specimens (such as nasal, nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal swabs, sputum, lower respiratory tract aspirates, bronchoalveolar lavage, and nasopharyngeal wash/aspirate or nasal aspirate) collected from individuals

suspected of COVID-19 by their healthcare provider. Testing is limited to the Center for Esoteric Testing, Burlington, NC, or other laboratories designated by LabCorp that are also certified under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA), 42 U.S.C. §263a, to perform high complexity tests. Results are for the identification of SARS-CoV-2 RNA. The SARS-CoV-2 RNA is generally detectable in respiratory specimens during the acute phase of infection. Positive results are indicative of the presence of SARS-CoV-2 RNA; clinical correlation with patient history and other diagnostic information is necessary to determine patient infection status. Positive results do not rule out bacterial infection or co-infection with other viruses. The agent detected may not be the definite cause of disease. Laboratories within the United States and its territories are required to report all positive results to the appropriate public health authorities. Negative results do not preclude SARS-CoV-2 infection and should not be used as the sole basis for patient management decisions. Negative results must be combined with clinical observations, patient history, and epidemiological information. Testing with the COVID-19 RT-PCR test is intended for use by trained clinical laboratory personnel specifically instructed and trained in the techniques of real-time PCR and in vitro diagnostic procedures. The COVID-19 RT-PCR is only for use under the Food and Drug Administration’s Emergency Use Authorization.

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