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

Blue Bell, PA (April 15, 2020) – Between Friday, March 20th and Thursday, April 9th, more than 4,800 individuals were successfully tested for COVID-19 at a drive-through testing location at Temple University's Ambler Campus in Upper Dublin Township. In recognition that this initial site would eventually cease operations, Montgomery County officials have been working closely with local, state, and federal partners to ensure continued access to testing in the county over the next several weeks.

On Thursday, April 16, 2020 at 10:00 AM, a new drive-through testing location will open on the Central Campus of the Montgomery County Community College in Whitpain Township. This site will provide self-swab COVID-19 testing, by appointment only. To view a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services instructional video about self-swab testing, visit https://youtu.be/vsQVxsQY3jc.

Due to the limited number of tests available, tests will be reserved for high-risk individuals meeting <u>one or more of the following five (5) criteria</u>:

- Persons of any age with symptoms of sudden illness (such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, loss of smell/taste, *OR* gastrointestinal symptoms, such as nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea), with or without fever; *OR*
- First responder (law enforcement, fire, EMS, or dispatcher) *AND* concern for exposure to a patient with suspected COVID-19 *OR* symptoms of any sudden illness, with or without fever; *OR*
- Healthcare worker providing direct patient care *AND* concern for exposure to a patient with suspected COVID-19 *OR* symptoms of any sudden illness, with or without fever; *OR*
- Anyone with known or suspected direct contact to someone with COVID-19; *OR*
- Anyone who has been recommended by their doctor to get tested.

Criteria may be enhanced or relaxed based on future availability of tests. Individuals qualifying under requirements for first responder or 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 from 10 AM to 4 PM daily (Monday – Saturday), as testing supplies allow. Registration for each day's appointments will open at 8 AM each morning and will remain open until all available spots are filled. Individuals can register online at www.montcopa.org/COVID-19.

Registration is also available over the phone (610-631-3000) for those without access to the internet or email.

After all time slots are filled for each day, anyone attempting to register will be provided with the option to join the wait list, which will be active for that day only. Individuals on the wait list will be contacted if any spots become available. Anyone who has registered and finds that they cannot make their appointment should call (610) 631-3000 as soon as possible to ensure that their time slot is made available to someone on the wait list.

Individuals arriving for testing should enter the campus via the entrance on the 300 block of Dekalb Pike (US 202), Blue Bell, PA 19422. 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.

Montgomery County officials are grateful to Whitpain Township, the Montgomery County Community College, and 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.

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