COVID-19 Community Testing Frequently Asked Questions

May 1, 2020

What is a community-based testing facility?

The City of Fort Worth has partnered with The University of Texas Health Science Center, University of Texas Southwestern, and Tarrant County Public Health to open free COVID-19 drive-through testing sites throughout Fort Worth and Tarrant County. Community-based testing sites are provided through this public partnership.

Where do individuals get an appointment?

Community-based testing appointments can be made online at https://covidtesting.tarrantcounty.com/ or by phone at 817-248-6299. The process starts with a self-screening tool – answer a few questions to be screened to access available test appointment options. If you do not see a test appointment available do not get discouraged; schedules with available appointment times are released frequently to maximize testing capacity.

Who should get tested?

Anyone exhibiting symptoms should consider getting tested. Individuals should strongly consider testing if they exhibit COVID-19 symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, shortness of breath) and are:

- employed as a healthcare or essential worker
- are over 65
- have chronic health condition

What happens at the community-based testing facilities?

The community-based testing facilities are drive-through facilities. Patients remain in their vehicles, rolling down windows only once for the actual test. At the site, you can expect a four-step process:

1. Check-In – Patient shows ID or QR code through their car window to confirm appointment.
2. Verification – Patient shows ID through their car window to verify their identity.
3. Instructions – Patient reads instructions from inside their car while windows remain up.
4. Test – Medical team staff performs test by placing a swab inside the patient's nose.

When are test results available?

COVID-19 test results are available within a few days. Typically this takes 3-5 days depending on the demand for testing. Patients with a positive test results receive a call notifying them of the positive result. Patients with a negative test result will be sent results by mail. Patients can also view their results on Quest Diagnostic's mobile app.

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Is health insurance a requirement?

No. Insurance is not required at the community-based testing sites. If a patient is insured, their insurance information is requested. However, the patient will not be billed or have any out-of-pocket expense for the service provided, including no copays.

Is a doctor referral required?

No. Patients will be pre-screened online or by phone. A doctor within a partner agency serves as the ordering physician for the laboratory order.

Are walk-ups or unscheduled vehicles allowed?

No. To use this site, patients must have an appointment. In addition, all patients must be inside a personal vehicle to use the community-based testing site.

If I live outside of Tarrant County, can I get tested at one of these sites?

No. Testing at these sites is reserved for Tarrant County residents. If you reside outside Tarrant County and need a COVID-19 test, please contact your local public health agency or the State of Texas hotline: Dial 2-1-1, then choose Option 6.

Do I have to be the driver?

No. Patients can be the driver or can be a passenger in a personal vehicle. The only requirement is that the patient is seated directly next to a side window that can be opened and closed to allow for the test.

Can more than one person in a car be tested?

Yes. For example, if a car with four doors had four people, each with individual appointments for the same day, each could be sampled at their respective window. No test can be given to a person seated in the middle of a seat away from a window.

Can children under the age of 18 be tested?

No. Testing materials and processes are intended for individuals who are 18 years of age or older. For testing for anyone under the age of 18, please consult your primary care physician or Tarrant County Public Health hotline: 817-248-6299.

Are sites testing for antibodies for the COVID-19 virus?

No. The testing sites only offer tests for positive or negative diagnosis for COVID-19.

Are there other testing facilities besides the community-based sites?

Yes. Please visit http://fortworthtexas.gov/COVID-19/testing/ for lists of sites that offer testing:
- fee-for-service testing
- free testing
- free community-based testing

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