



Florence County Health Department

501 Lake Ave PO Box 410 Florence, Wisconsin 54121 715-528-4837
A.Seibold, RN, MS Health Officer/Director



NEWS RELEASE

05/08/2020

Annette Seibold-Florence County Health Department

715-528-4837

FAX 715-528-5269

aseibold@co.florence.wi.us

Free COVID-19 Testing in Florence County with National Guard Assistance

Florence/WI— Local health departments and emergency management in the Northern WI region have requested assistance from the WI National Guard to scale up COVID-19 nasal swab testing. The National Guard will be providing drive through style COVID-19 swab testing.

In our area, Florence, Forest and Marinette Counties are partnering to host a community COVID-19 specimen collection event in the parking lot of the Florence Natural Resources Center, 5638 Forestry Dr., Florence, WI on Tuesday, May 12th. This free event will be from 11 am to 7pm. Anyone 5 years and older with at least one of the following symptoms: fever, cough, loss of taste/smell, shortness of breath, sore throat, fatigue, body aches, diarrhea, vomiting, nausea, chills, or muscle aches can get tested. Testing is also available to all first responders, high risk individuals (65 years of age or older), under 65 with underlying medical conditions, or any immunocompromised individual (without symptoms) will be tested. This event is only available to those who live or work in Wisconsin.

Please provide a current address, county of residence, and phone number when you arrive for testing. Testing at this event will be free, please be aware that if testing kits run out before the end of the event, those not tested may be turned away. Due to the unknown amount of interest, prepare for potential wait time. Participants are to remain in their vehicles at all times. No restroom facilities will be available onsite. Please plan accordingly. It is requested that modes of transportation form a line while waiting for testing, and that those who want to be tested, stay in or on their mode of transportation at all times.

The National Guard will be doing the testing. They will be in uniform and in full PPE (personal protective equipment including gowns, mask, gloves, etc.) during this event. We have two goals with this event: 1) provide our communities with mass testing, and allow local healthcare providers more time to increase their testing capabilities and 2) give public health an increased insight into how widespread COVID-19 is in our communities. Following this event, local public health will be following up with any positive cases. Negative cases will be notified by the National Guard. Generally, test results are known within 48 hours of samples being submitted.

There are alternative testing sites in the state of Wisconsin throughout May. Any WI resident is welcome to attend any one of the testing events. For further information, visit the [CDC's website](#), the [DHS website](#), or the Florence County Health Department Facebook or website at <http://www.florencecountywi.com/>.

#