



Florence County Health Department

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NEWS RELEASE

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

Florence/WI- Florence County Health Department is collaborating with the Wisconsin National Guard to provide free COVID-19 testing. The National Guard drive-through COVID-19 testing event will be held on Friday, October 9, 2020 from 10 am to 6 pm behind the Natural Resource Center, 5628 Forestry Drive (take the second road on the right behind Resource Center), Florence WI 54121. Pre-registration will be available within 24 hours of the event at <http://register.covidconnect.wi.gov>.

No appointments are necessary. Anyone 5 years and older are eligible to test. Symptoms include fever, cough, loss of taste/smell, shortness of breath, sore throat, fatigue, body aches, diarrhea, vomiting, nausea, chills or muscle aches. This event is only available to people who live or work in Wisconsin.

Individuals getting tested should be prepared to provide a current address, county of residence and phone number when they arrive. Please be aware that the testing will be provided first come, first serve and that attendees may have to wait to be tested. Vehicles will form a line while waiting for testing, and all attendees will need to stay in or on their vehicle at all times. No restroom facilities will be available onsite; please plan accordingly.

The National Guard will collect nasal swabs while in uniform and in full PPE (personal protective equipment including gowns, mask, gloves, etc.) during this event. The PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test that will be used is over 99% accurate. The National Guard will be making phone calls to negative cases and the local health departments of your primary residence will follow up on positive cases. Generally, test results are known within 4-5 days of sample submission.

The public should continue to follow these preventive steps to protect our families, neighbors, and communities from the spread of this virus, including:

- Avoiding large social gatherings
- Practicing physical distancing when out in the community by staying 6 feet away from others;
- Wearing a face covering if able;
- Frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and water;

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- Covering coughs and sneezes (into the sleeve, elbow, or tissue, and not hands);
- Regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces;
- Not shaking hands;
- Avoiding touching your face;
- Staying at home as much as possible.

There are alternative testing sites in the state of Wisconsin throughout October. 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/>.

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