



PRESS RELEASE

Beverley Townsend, MD, MBA, FAAFP, District Health Director

West Central Health District
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District Testing Moves to Appointment Only

Due to the extreme demand for COVID-19 testing, the West Central Health District will begin an **appointment only** schedule starting Monday, July 13th. All persons who want to be tested **must pre-register at www.westcentralhealthdistrict.com and select an appointment time**, along with the county location. Although testing is available for anyone*, we recommend testing if you are a DIRECT** contact of someone who has COVID-19 and you have waited at least 10 days since being exposed OR you are sick with symptoms of COVID-19. “Our staff have been working overtime to accommodate our residents, and we must ensure their safety”, said Dr. Beverley Townsend, District Health Director. “Our team would like to ensure that all other public health services are still available to our residents.”

Residents may register for appointments now, and some locations have already seen days fill up. All persons to be tested at Georgia health departments must be Georgia residents, but they do not have to be symptomatic. Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

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|---------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Fever | Chills | Headache |
| Cough | Nausea | Diarrhea |
| Muscle Pain | Sore Throat | Congestion or runny nose |
| Shortness of Breath | Repeated Shaking with Chills | New Loss of Taste or Smell |

Specimen collection is held Monday through Friday, from 7:00 am to 11:00 am, in the parking lot behind the Columbus Health Department, on 11th Avenue and Center Street. There is no charge for testing at any health department location.

Other locations for COVID-19 testing include urgent care centers, drug stores, and pharmacies.

Other County Health Departments offer drive-thru collection, **weather permitting:**

Chattahoochee <i>Cusseta</i>	Tuesday and Thursday <i>Every other Monday</i>	10:00 am to 12:00 pm <i>Monday by appt. only</i>	706-989-3663
Clay <i>Fort Gaines</i>	Wednesday	10:00 am to 12:00 pm	229-768-2355
Crisp- off site- J.R Dowdy Building, 1129 N 5th Street, <i>Cordele</i>	Monday – Friday	9:00 am to 12:00 pm	229-276-2680
Dooly <i>Vienna</i>	No testing until further notice.		229-268-4725
Harris	Tuesday, Wednesday,	9:00 am to 11:30 am	706-628-5037

<i>Hamilton</i>	Thursday		
<i>Macon Oglethorpe</i>	Tuesday, Thursday Friday	8:30 am to 10:30 am	478-472-8121
<i>Marion Buena Vista</i>	Monday and Wednesday	8:00 am to 12:00 pm	229-649-5664
<i>Quitman Georgetown</i>	Tuesday	10:00 am to 12:00 pm	229-334-3697
<i>Randolph Cuthbert</i>	Monday, Thursday, Friday	10:00 am to 12:00 pm	229-732-2414
<i>Schley Ellaville</i>	Monday and Tuesday	9:00 am to 11:00 am	229-937-2208
<i>Stewart Lumpkin</i>	Wednesday and Friday <i>Every other Monday</i>	10:00 am to 12:00 pm <i>Monday by appt. only</i>	229-838-4859
<i>Sumter Americus</i>	Monday and Wednesday	9:00 am to 12:00 pm	229-924-3637
<i>Talbot Talbotton</i>	Monday, Wednesday, Friday	8:30 am to 11:00 am	706-786-6410
<i>Taylor Butler</i>	Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	9:00 am to 11:00 am	478-862-5628
<i>Webster Preston</i>	Monday	9:00 am to 12:00 pm 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm	229-828-3225

We urge all individuals to practice these prevention measures:

- **Wear a mask or cloth face covering when you go to a store, office, or public place.**
- **Remember social distancing:** six feet between you and the person closest to you.
- **Wash your hands** often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- **Avoid touching** your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick.
- **Stay home** when you are sick.
- **Cover your cough or sneeze** with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- **Clean and disinfect** frequently touched objects and surfaces.

For more information, people may call our COVID-19 call center at 706-321-6300, or visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html> or www.westcentralhealthdistrict.com.

**DPH does not recommend requiring a negative test result before returning to school or work. School systems and employers should follow quarantine and isolation guidance found at: https://westcentralhealthdistrict.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Quarantine-and-Isolation_508.pdf.*

***Being within 6 six feet or less for more than 15 minutes.*

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