

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Drive-thru COVID-19 testing on June 26 aims to stop the chain of coronavirus transmission in Johnson County

JOHNSON COUNTY, KAN. (June 22, 2020) – If you live or work in Johnson County, Kansas and are age 18 and older, you can get a free COVID-19 test on Friday, June 26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., or until supplies run out, at the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, 13720 Roe Ave. in Leawood.

The Johnson County Department of Health and Environment (JCDHE) is offering the drive-thru testing clinic on a first-come, first-served basis for anyone with or without symptoms. Traffic should enter the testing clinic off Roe Avenue, just south of 135th Street and follow the signs. Due to a high demand for this type of testing, five testing stations will be in operation.

“The more we test, the more we know about how COVID-19 is spreading in Johnson County. If we know who is infected, we can isolate those individuals and stop the chain of transmission in the community,” says Dr. Sanmi Areola, director of the department. “We encourage anyone who feels ill with COVID-19 symptoms or thinks they may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 to take advantage of this free testing.”

Those getting testing should remain in their vehicles with the windows rolled up until it’s time for their test. Testing involves using a swab to take a sample from inside the nose. The department requests that people not bring pets to the testing site to protect the safety of staff and the occupants of the vehicle.

This is the department’s seventh community testing event and is part of the county’s overall strategy to broadly test Johnson County residents. On June 12, the department tested 694 people with and without symptoms resulting in 18 positive cases of COVID-19.

(more)

As the number of positives cases across the Kansas City metro area continues to rise, Areola says it's more important than ever that everyone wear a mask when they are out in public or at their workplace, stay 6-feet from others, and avoid large crowds. He adds that everyone should follow these steps to prevent infection and not overwhelm our healthcare system.

More information about the county's COVID-19 response can be found at www.jocogov.org/coronavirus.

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MEDIA STAGING

The media staging area is located in the parking lot just east of the testing area. Police will allow media representatives to enter at Nall Avenue, then take Golden Bear Drive to the media staging area. JCDHE representatives will be available for interviews at the staging area from 9-10 a.m. Please call the JCDHE media line at 913-477-8436 to schedule an interview.

