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Kent County Health Department Expands COVID-19 Testing
Four Clinics Opening Throughout the County

***GRAND RAPIDS (June 3, 2020)** –* The Kent County Health Department (KCHD) is making COVID-19 community testing more available by opening four testing sites in the County.

"Expanding COVID-19 testing in Kent County is important," says Christopher Bendekgey, KCHD Community Clinical Services Director. "We wanted to establish sites in the geographic areas where we are seeing the highest incidents of positive cases and where individuals have less access to transportation."

The sites, designated as drive through and walk through clinics, are located at:

Drive Through Sites:
- **Kent County Health Department Main Clinic**
  700 Fuller Ave. NE · Grand Rapids, MI. 49503
  Mondays and Wednesdays, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. (noon), until September 1, 2020

- **Kent County Health Department South Clinic**
  4700 Kalamazoo Ave. SE · Kentwood, MI. 49508
  Mondays and Wednesdays, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. (noon), until September 1, 2020

Walk Through Sites:
- **Potter's House Christian School**
  810 Van Raalte Dr. SW · Grand Rapids, MI. 49509
  Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., until August 1, 2020

- **Baxter Community Health Center**
  958 Baxter SE · Grand Rapids, MI 49506
  Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m., until September 1, 2020

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KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 265 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and three satellite clinics located in Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit www.accesskent.com/health.

The testing is available to individuals over the age of six (6) months who:

- live in a community impacted by COVID-19,
- have a known exposure to a person with confirmed COVID-19 or symptoms of COVID-19, or
- work in a job that puts them at high risk for exposure (jail, homeless shelters, nursing homes or assisted living facilities, food processing facilities, or any business that limits the ability to practice social distancing, or has repeated close contact with the public).

Registration for the testing is strongly encouraged by visiting our website at https://www.accesskent.com/Health/covid-19-testing.htm, or by calling (616) 632-7200.

No insurance or identification is needed to receive the free test; however, people who have health insurance are asked to bring their insurance cards. Individuals must wear a mask when arriving at a testing location.

The test is administered by inserting a small swab into the nose and gently collecting nasal secretions from the back of the nose and throat. It can cause mild discomfort but is a quick procedure. Results should be available within three to five (3-5) business days. If positive, individuals will receive further information from KCHD.

"We are pleased to ramp up testing so we can get a more accurate idea of the spread of COVID-19 in our community," concluded Bendekgey. "It will not only protect individuals and their families but is an essential part of our overall strategy towards recovery."

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