
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE



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Contact: Steve Kelso

PH: (616) 632-7274

EM: Steve.Kelso@kentcountymi.gov

Kent County Health Department Co-Sponsoring Community COVID-19 Testing Event
LINC UP and Black Impact Collaborative Are Joining Forces with Us to Offer Free Testing

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (June 24, 2020) – The Kent County Health Department (KCHD) is partnering with the Black Impact Collaborative and LINC UP to provide a free COVID-19 community testing day on Monday, June 29, 2020. The event will be held from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Gallery at LINC UP located at 1167 Madison S.E. in Grand Rapids.

“We know that COVID-19 has been disproportionately impacting the African American and Latinx communities, so the Black Impact Collaborative wanted to partner with Kent County to make sure that African Americans and Latinxs in our community have the opportunity to get tested,” said Kent County Commissioner Robert Womack. “This is such a needed resource for our community to allow anyone to get tested and we are thankful that the County put this testing day together.”

In Kent County, members of the Latinx community account for 39.4 percent of the COVID-19 cases while comprising 10 percent of the population and African Americans have 19.25 percent of the cases but make up 10 percent of the population.

“Our data is showing that 17 percent of our COVID-19 positive cases are located in the 49507-zip code and yet only 6 percent of Kent County’s population resides in this area,” says Dr. Adam London, Director, Kent County Health Department. “This type of data continues to inform our response to COVID-19 and ensures our resources are accessible to the most impacted neighborhoods.”

The Kent County Health Department will continue working to address the racial and ethnic health disparities by collaborating with community partners to offer testing in areas that are showing a higher prevalence of positive cases.

“We are excited to work with community partners like the Kent County Health Department, who recognize that racial health disparities exist and are actively working to address them by changing their practices,” said Vincent Thurman, Communications Manager at LINC UP. “COVID-19 has further revealed

KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 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.

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how stark these disparities are and how much needs to change. Partnering with KCHD is a great step forward to improving equity in healthcare. The data shows that Black and Brown communities are at a higher risk for contracting COVID-19 and we are happy to have free testing available to residents in our neighborhoods.”

Anyone 6 months of age or above can get tested. Pre-registration for this event is encouraged by going [online](#) or calling (616) 632-7200 but walk-in testing is available.

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