Yakima Health District

Media Release

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Contact: Lilian Bravo, Director of Public Health Partnerships   509-930-4787

New State Fair Park Testing Site Helping Detect More Positive Cases of COVID-19

Yakima, WA – Results from the first week of testing at the Yakima State Fair Park indicate that the testing site is helping detect more positive cases of COVID-19 in the community. Since opening last week, the site has performed over 800 tests, with 12% of those being positive for COVID-19.

The free testing site operates Tuesday to Saturday from 9:00am-3:00pm except on Thursdays, when it opens from 1:00pm-7:00pm. The site will operate on a normal schedule from 9:00am-3:00pm on Thursday, December 3rd, 2020.

Tests are self-administered, which allows patients to collect their own nasal sample with careful instruction and supervision from medical staff. To preregister for a test, individuals may go to wacovid19.org/yakimatesting or call 211. Those who are unable to preregister may complete registration at the testing site. By pre-registering for a test, individuals can make the testing process go faster for everyone. Test results are provided within 1-3 days.

Residents are strongly encouraged to get tested if they experience symptoms such as fever, cough, loss of taste or smell, or other COVID-19 symptoms. Everyone who has been in close contact with an infected individual or is concerned about a potential exposure should also get tested.

This testing site is a collaboration between the Yakima Health District, Yakima State Fair Park, Signal Health, Virginia Mason Memorial Hospital, Health Commons Project, Washington State Department of Health and the University of Washington, Laboratory Medicine and Pathology.

Additional Information:

COVID-19 Symptoms

State Fair Park Testing Site

Yakima County Ongoing Testing Sites

Quotes

"Through the first week of testing, the new testing site at State Fair Park has already identified more than 100 infections with SARS-CoV-2 virus, which causes COVID-19. We know this virus spreads rapidly, so the impact of this increased access to testing extends beyond the individuals who have been identified as positive. This effort will help prevent many more cases and help the community's efforts to contain the spread of the virus." -Dr. Patrick Mathias, Vice Chair of Clinical Operations at the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology from the University of Washington

"Getting tested is one of the most important things community members can do to contain the spread of COVID-19. Getting tested allows infected individuals to know whether their symptoms are due to COVID-19 or something else, and if positive, to immediately isolate to prevent spreading the virus to others. It also allows for identification of those who may have been exposed so they can quarantine, and for public health staff and community partners to provide needed support to those in isolation or quarantine. Our community cannot effectively contain the spread of this virus without first knowing who is infected, and if we cannot contain spread, we jeopardize the safety of in-person learning for our students, we further distance ourselves from safe movement to Phase 3, and we further risk the safety of our elderly residents and other vulnerable populations."-Dr. Teresa Everson, Health Officer, Yakima Health District

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