

YORK HOSPITAL'S NEW 'RAPID RESULT COVID-19 TESTING CENTER' SERVES OVER 500 PEOPLE SINCE JULY 1



York Hospital, in partnership with the state of Maine Department of Health and Human Services, opened its drive-thru 'Rapid Result Covid-19 Testing Center' on July 1st at the Hospital's Walk-In Care location at 343 US Route One in York. This new program allows those at elevated risk of COVID-19 infection to get a test without a provider referral, with results available within minutes. The intent is to make testing more widely available to visitors planning to vacation in Maine, or Maine residents returning from elsewhere, who may forego the 14-day quarantine with a negative test result.

At the York Rapid Result COVID-19 Testing Center, appointments are available for any individuals who believe they may have COVID-19 or could have been exposed to the virus, with or without symptoms, as defined under the DHHS Standing Order. This includes individuals traveling to Maine from states with a higher prevalence of COVID-19, among others.



York Hospital Staff and Volunteers ready for their next patient at Rapid Result Covid-19 Testing Center on Route 1 in York. L-R: Heather Ryan, MA; Charity Neal, RN/Director of Emergency & Surgical Services; Maura Reed, Med-Surg RN; Erich Fogg, PA-C/ Director of Walk-In Services; Heather Bird, Care Access.

Appointments must be made in advance, online at yorkhospital.com/covid-19-testing-info. Although the \$25 fee must be paid at the time of testing (credit/debit cards entered while reserving online), individuals can request reimbursement from their insurance by submitting a receipt.

This test is administered as a quick and non-invasive nasal swab, while patients remain seated in their vehicles. After testing, each patient is guided to a parking spot, and provided results in approximately 15 minutes. Testing hours are: Monday – Thursday, 8 am – 4pm; Friday, 8 am – 6pm; Saturday, 10 am – 6 pm; and Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm.

"Starting July 1, with support from the State of Maine, we expanded our testing options," said Erich Fogg, PA-C, MMSc., Director of Walk-In Services at York Hospital, following the roll out of the new program last Wednesday. "This allowed us, in less than a week, to provide over 500 patients their rapid results in as little as 15 minutes. Doing so, travelers and returning residents now have an opportunity to forgo the 14-day quarantine as part of the Keep Maine Healthy initiative, outlined by Governor Mills' office. We want to thank the Governor's office, the Maine National Guard, the Town of York, the Civil Air Patrol, and all our tireless volunteers for their tremendous support!"

"York Hospital's new COVID-19 testing site is a convenient option for those entering Maine from the south, providing rapid results as they embark on travels throughout the state," said Jeanne Lambrew, Commissioner of the Maine Department of Health and Human Services. "We're pleased to support York Hospital with testing materials for this effort. Expanded testing, along with increasing symptom checking and supporting local public health and prevention efforts, is key to protecting the health and safety of Maine people and visitors this summer and beyond."

Travelers to Maine from New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut are exempt from the 14-day quarantine requirement or negative COVID-19 testing alternative.

If individuals who receive a negative result from the rapid test develop symptoms of COVID-19 or their health provider advises further testing, Maine CDC recommends that they be retested with a PCR molecular test.

In addition to the "Rapid Result" testing, York Hospital continues to offer testing with a provider referral, where insurance is accepted and PCR molecular test results are provided with results generally available within 24-48 hours. Patients arriving without this documentation, who are symptomatic, will be evaluated by Walk-In Care providers, and if appropriate, given the necessary paperwork for testing. Although no appointments are required, all patients with provider referrals must call to pre-register at 207-351-2000 before arriving at the testing site. Hours for testing are: Monday – Friday, 8 am – 4 pm.

Collaboration for the testing center goes beyond state and local partnerships, to volunteers from many communities. In addition to York Hospital staff, logistics are managed with efficiency and compassion by volunteers from the many communities in Southern Maine. Local community members assist staff with swabbing and registration, while The Maine National Guard and The Civil Air Patrol lend their expertise to greeting and explaining the testing process as each new patient arrives. The York Region Chamber of Commerce along with York Community Service Association continue to reach out to area businesses to provide daily lunches for all volunteers.

For more information about COVID-19 or York's COVID-19 Testing Center, visit yorkhospital.com/covid or contact The York Hospital Community Relations Office at 207.351.2385 or info@yorkhospital.com.