April 23, 2020

1:30 p.m. What Pueblo Health Wants You to Know:

“Innovative COVID-19 Testing Occurring in Pueblo County”

Pueblo, CO #PuebloCOVID19

Pueblo, CO. – The COVID-19 community drive-thru testing site at the Colorado State Fairgrounds is utilizing an innovative testing procedure that allows individuals to administer their own test.

The drive-thru testing site, which opened Wednesday, is utilizing a self-administered procedure where patrons swabs their own nostrils instead of having an attendant conduct a much more invasive nasal pharyngeal swab. The procedure, approved by the Food and Drug Administration, limits interaction with the patron, which reduces exposure to the virus. The self-administered test does not require workers to wear as much personal protective equipment, which is already in short supply.

The way the test works is individuals being tested must remain in their enclosed vehicle. They will be given a test kit that includes a sponge swab and a collection tube. With the windows rolled up on the vehicle, the individual takes the sponge swab and twists it twice inside one nostril and then hold it in place for 15 seconds. The step is repeated in the other nostril. The swab is placed in the collection tube and returned to the attendant. To see a video of the process go to https://youtu.be/vsQVxsQY3jc

Pueblo County’s drive-thru testing site is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday through May 30 at the Colorado State Fairgrounds (enter through Gate 4 off Mesa Avenue and Gaylord Avenue). Testing is open to anyone in Pueblo County and neighboring counties who have any of the COVID-19 symptoms. Symptoms may include a cough, difficulty breathing, a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, headache, chills, muscle pain and sore throat. Individuals being tested must be inside an enclosed vehicle for safety. No walk-ups or motorcycles are allowed at the testing site. Testing is limited to 250 people a day.
Everybody has a responsibility to protect the most vulnerable in Pueblo by:

- Follow Governor’s Stay-At-Home order through April 26
- Wear a non-medical cloth face covering while out in public for necessary activities
- Minimize social activities and being physically close to other people
- Isolate yourself if you feel symptoms of shortness of breath, cough, temperature of 100.4 or higher call your medical provider before visiting them.
- Do not go to the emergency room unless medically necessary. Contact your health care provider.
- Wash your hands with soap regularly.
- Cough or sneeze into elbow or tissue.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
- Avoid close contact with sick people.
- Clean surfaces frequently touched.

Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment encourages residents to seek out credible, reliable sources of information on COVID-19:

- [www.puebloemergency.info](http://www.puebloemergency.info)
- Call CO HELP at 1-877-462-2911 or email [COHELP@RMPDC.org](mailto:COHELP@RMPDC.org)
- Pueblo’s COVID-19 Hotline 719-583-4444

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