



Lewiston Auburn
METROPOLITAN
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Statement for Access to Testing and Timely Results

The Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of its 700+ members, is advocating for access to COVID-19 testing and timely test results to ensure continuity of operations and safety of the region's workforce. As the greater Lewiston Auburn area and the State of Maine reckon with the effects of the pandemic and the impending cold and flu season, owners and operators have significant concerns on their ability to operate with adequate staffing when faced with limited access to COVID-19 testing and delayed or inconsistent test results.

Our members put the safety of their staff and customers first, and recognize the significant steps the State of Maine has taken to ensure the public health response keeps people safe. The leadership of Maine CDC, Maine DECD, and Maine DHHS, along with the sacrifice of business owners and Maine residents have kept our positive case counts low, our test positivity rate low, and our people safe. The efforts and sacrifices are to be commended. The continued innovation of Maine's biotech businesses and manufacturers along with the State's dedication to adding swab and send sites, introducing mobile testing abilities, and increasing lab facilities have helped Maine keep the spread of the virus largely in check. While we extend our gratitude, we also believe that the efforts need to continue as a top priority, and more needs to be done.

We have identified three actions the State must continue to prioritize to ensure employers can manage their workforce for safety and keep their doors open; both are vital to our regional and State economy and quality of life. We ask that the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, with Governor Mills' Administration:

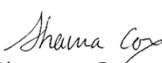
Continues to expand access to free testing by increasing the reimbursement rate for administration of Swab and Send sites, allowing for expanded hours and locations for test sites that administer free tests and utilize the State lab for processing.

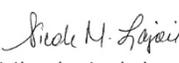
Improves the consistency and shortens the length of time for accurate results by continuing to expand capacity at State laboratories, investing in proven and emerging testing methods and supplies that provide results in 48 hours or less.

Continues to prioritize the testing access and timely results for employers and their workforce by seeking innovative solutions with Maine manufacturers, biotech companies, healthcare systems, and employers.

The Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and our members appreciate the efforts to date, and stand ready as partners to seek workable solutions that ensure employers can balance safety with financial sustainability.

Kindly requested by:


Shanna Cox
President +CEO


Nicole Lajoie
Board Chair

Build.
Lead.
Thrive.



207.783.2249 x1206



shanna@lmetrochamber.com



lmetrochamber.com



415 Lisbon Street, Lewiston, ME



Lewiston Auburn
METROPOLITAN
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Lewiston Auburn Legislative Delegation

Senator Nathan Libby, Lewiston
Senator Ned Claxton, Auburn
Representative Margaret Craven, Lewiston
Representative Heidi Brooks, Lewiston
Representative Kristen Cloutier, Lewiston
Representative Jim Handy, Lewiston
Representative Gina Melaragno, Auburn
Representative Bruce Bickford, Auburn
Representative Bettyann Sheats, Auburn

Local Leadership

City of Auburn, Mayor, Jason Levesque
City of Lewiston, Mayor, Mark Cayer

LA Regional Businesses and Organizations

Androscoggin Home Healthcare + Hospice, President + CEO, Ken Albert
Auburn Manufacturing Inc., President + CEO, Kathie Leonard
Bachmann Industries, Inc., CFO, Terri Earley
Bangor Savings Bank- Auburn, VP Relationship Manager, Christine Bosse
Baxter Brewing Co. LLC, President, Jenn Lever
Baystate Financial, Financial Advisor, Salvatore Bonetti
Bert' Awesome Stuff, Christine Hayden
Boulet Chiropractic & Wellness, President, Kathy Boulet
Brann & Isaacson, Managing Partner, Martin Eisenstein
Canty Cow Creamery, Owner, Elizabeth Bullard
Career Resources Specialist, Elaine StPierre
Casco Bay Food and Beverage LLC, Executive VP, Niki Morton
Central Maine Healthcare, Vice President, Marketing, Communications & Advocacy,
Jacqueline J. Weder
Champoux Insurance Group, President, Diane Champoux
Champoux Insurance Group, VP, Dick Albert
Chickadee Crafts, Owner, Patricia Field
Child's Play Inc., Accounting Manager, Tracy Grondin
Child's Play Inc., GM, Laurie Reynolds
Chip Morrison, Private
Clover Health Care, Administrator, Cynthia Quinlan
Community Concepts Inc., CEO, Shawn Yardley
Community Credit Union, President + CEO, Jennifer Hogan
DeBlois Electric Inc., VP, Raymond DeBlois
DeBlois Electric Inc., Jaime-Lyn Allie

Build.
Lead.
Thrive.



207.783.2249 x1206



shanna@lametrochamber.com



lametrochamber.com



415 Lisbon Street, Lewiston, ME



Lewiston Auburn
METROPOLITAN
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

LA Regional Businesses and Organizations (Continued)

Dirigo AE, President, Thomas Perkins
Fish Bones Grill, Owner, Paul Landry
Geiger, Board Chair, Gene Geiger
Hahnel Bros Co., President, Alan Hahnel
Hampton by Hilton Lewiston-Auburn, Director of Sales, Audree Rackley
Hilton Garden Inn Auburn Riverwatch, GM, Jessica Donovan
Hilton Garden Inn Auburn Riverwatch, Front Office Manager, Matthew Shaw
Inner Light Wellness, Owner, Tisha Bremner
J. Dostie Jewelers, Owner, Michael Dostie
Lamey-Wellehan, Chairman, Jim Wellehan
Lamey-Wellehan, President, Don Stowell
Lucro Management, CFO, Amy Griswold
Maine Music Society, Chair, Richard O'Brien
Marquis Signs, Owner, Sandy Marquis
Miles of Smiles Child Care, Owner, Jamie Westling
Oxford Casino, GM, Jack Sours
Payroll Management, Principal + CMO, Elaine Hemenway
Poland Spring Resort, President, Cyndi Robbins
Ralph Tuttle, Chair, Ralph Tuttle
Sandcastle Clinical & Educational Services, Executive Director, Stephanie Gelinis
Sara Goodrich, LMT, Owner, Sara Goodrich
Schooner Estates Senior Living Community, Director of Operations, John Rice
ServiceMaster Fire and Water Restoration, Owner, Carl Carlson
Spiller's, President, Raymond Martel
St. Mary's Health System, President, Steven C. Jorgensen
Summers Dreams Inc DBA Wolf Cove Inn, Roy Forsberg
The Center for Wisdom's Women / Sophia's House, Retired Executive Director, Klara Tammany
The Computer Place, Inc., President, Jon Levesque
The Cupcakery Cafe & Bakeshop, Operations Assistant, Amy Servidio
The Fortin Group, GM, Kevin Simoneau
The Great Adventure Daycare Center, Owner, Sharon Gates
The Masiello Group, Real Estate Agent, Marcel Poulin
The Olympia Companies, Sr. Director of HR, Alison Briggs
The Public Theatre, Co-Artistic Director, Janet Mitchko
University of Maine at Augusta, HR Partner, Shannon D'Auteuil
Up With Community, Founder, Nicola Chin
Warp + Weft, Owner, Aimee Goodwin
Wei li Chinese Restaurant, Yu li Huang
YWCA Central Maine, Executive Director, Melanie LaMore Gagnon

Build.
Lead.
Thrive.



207.783.2249 x1206



shanna@lametrochamber.com



lametrochamber.com



415 Lisbon Street, Lewiston, ME



Lewiston Auburn
METROPOLITAN
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

We, the Lewiston Auburn Legislative Delegation, are adding our names to this petition from the Lewiston Auburn Metro Chamber of Commerce. We are adding our support and influence to request the State of Maine increase access to testing and timely results for COVID-19 in our metro area. We have been hearing concerns and complaints from our constituents, business leaders, workers and families alike, about the lack of testing without symptoms and the timeliness of results. These complaints are backed up by our own personal experiences and those of our families. We recognize the difficulty and the nuance involved with expanding Swap and Send sites. We cannot let the solutions be delayed any longer. We ask you to make addressing these issues and expanding access to Swab and Send sites a priority.

Sincerely,

Senator Nathan Libby, Lewiston

Senator Ned Claxton, Auburn

Representative Margaret Craven, Lewiston

Representative Heidi Brooks, Lewiston

Representative Kristen Cloutier, Lewiston

Representative Jim Handy, Lewiston

Representative Gina Melaragno, Auburn

Representative Bruce Bickford, Auburn

Representative Bettyann Sheats, Auburn



Build.
Lead.
Thrive.



207.783.2249 x1206



shanna@lametrochamber.com



lametrochamber.com



415 Lisbon Street, Lewiston, ME