

COVID-19 Testing Expanded In County For Those With Frequent Public Contacts

Dr. Prescription Will No Longer Required

Hunterdon County's Freeholder Board, at the October 6th meeting, approved expanded COVID-19 testing, in conjunction with the Hunterdon Medical Group (HMG), that will boost the availability of testing to a broader group of individuals who have frequent contact with the public, particularly first responders, and will also no longer require a physician's prescription, starting October 13th, at the current test site; 121 Route 31 South, Suite 100, in Raritan Township.

Residents seeking a test must schedule an appointment by calling (908) 237 - 4230 or emailing HMGDOTTesting@hhsnj.org.

Freeholder Board Deputy Director Sue Soloway, the Board's liaison for the Department of Health, said, "The cooperative testing program between the County and HMG has been very successful so far, and the Freeholder Board is most appreciative of the hospital's team working in collaboration with the county's Health team to make it work effectively.

Expanded testing, and the County Health Department's exceptional contact tracing program, will help health officials stay in front of any potential increased spread of the coronavirus. We greatly appreciate HMG's willingness to work with the County on this project."

Under the County's amended agreement with Hunterdon Medical Group, in addition to those exhibiting symptoms and individuals who have had contact with positive COVID cases, the expanded program will now allow testing appointments for first responders, teachers, food service and preparation workers, and other essential workers, without the need for a doctor's prescription.

Hunterdon County Health Officer Karen DeMarco told the Freeholder Board, "Identifying cases of COVID-19 through expanded testing increases the Health Department's ability to interview cases and notify close contacts of their need to quarantine, resulting in less exposure and community spread of illness."

"We are pleased to offer expanded testing to our community through our joint partnership with the Hunterdon County Health Department," stated LuAnn Trainer, Chief Operating Officer, Hunterdon Medical Group. Ms. Trainer added, "We want to remind our community to continue to be vigilant and wear a mask, practice social distancing and continue to wash your hands frequently. Together, we can help contain the spread of COVID-19."