

From the House

Increasing Hartford's COVID-19 Testing Capacity

By Rep. Matt Ritter

The key to restarting our economy and protecting our community is increasing access to COVID-19 testing. The stronger our testing capacity, the better our position.

Governor Ned Lamont announced a new partnership between the state, Quest Diagnostics and Hartford HealthCare to increase testing in the state to add an additional 2,000 tests per day - including additional testing capacity in Hartford.

"Across Hartford HealthCare, we have been diligently working to enhance access for our community members, while we contain the virus and protect our communities. I am proud to announce a significant improvement regarding testing and access. Together with our long-standing outpatient laboratory partner, Quest Diagnostics, we will enhance and build testing capacity. This allows us to do even more to contain the spread of the virus and take care of our communities."

-Hartford HealthCare President and CEO Jeffrey Flaks

Hartford HealthCare plans to increase capacity at existing testing locations in Hartford, Norwich, Torrington, Bridgeport, and New Britain, and is actively investigating new ways to bring testing to traditionally underserved communities.

Working closely with Governor Lamont, Mayor Luke Bronin and the Hartford Legislative Delegation, we have been actively pursuing opportunities to increase Hartford's testing capacity - This announcement is a big step forward and we are continuing to pursue a rapid testing site.

Rental Assistance

At the urging of the Hartford Delegation, Governor Lamont issued Executive Order 7X to provide some relief to renters. Under the order:

Eviction proceedings are on hold

There is a grace period on rent that can be extended

Security deposits of more than one month's rent can be used as rent

Information is constantly evolving, for the most up to date info on coronavirus visit the state's COVID-19 hub at ct.gov/coronavirus.

Please contact me at Matthew.Ritter@cga.ct.gov, or by phone at (860) 240-8489, if you have any questions or concerns.