



Office of the City Manager  
City Hall • 375 Merrimack Street • Lowell, MA 01852  
P: 978.970.4000 • F: 978.970.4007  
[www.LowellMA.gov](http://www.LowellMA.gov)

Eileen M. Donoghue  
City Manager

Kara Keefe Mullin  
Assistant City Manager

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact:** Phil Geoffroy  
Executive Assistant-Communications  
978-674-4400 | [pgeoffroy@lowellma.gov](mailto:pgeoffroy@lowellma.gov)

## **No-Cost COVID-19 Testing in Lowell Extended**

LOWELL, MA – The City of Lowell’s Health Department has announced that no-cost COVID-19 testing for Lowell residents through the state’s “Stop the Spread” initiative will continue next week and into September. Starting August 26, testing will be offered on Wednesdays from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM in the parking lot at 1001 Pawtucket Boulevard. Testing is scheduled to be available at the site on August 26, September 2, and September 9. All residents, including those that do not have symptoms of COVID-19, will be eligible to be tested at the site.

The testing marks a continuation of the Health Department’s partnership with Lowell Community Health Center and Trinity EMS, which previously hosted free testing sites at locations throughout the City from July 10 through August 14. Testing has also been offered at LCHC’s Appleton Street location as part of the effort. Roughly 5,000 total participants have been screened for COVID-19 through Stop the Spread testing in Lowell thus far. The Upper Merrimack Medical Reserve Corp has also provided volunteer support testing operations in Lowell.

Appointments are not required, however individuals seeking testing at this site are encouraged to pre-register to reduce wait times by calling 978-937-9700 between 8:30 am and 5:00 pm. Interpretation services will be available for participants requiring them. Results will be provided to each participant confidentially. This testing site will only support drive-thru testing. Participants approaching the site are advised to enter the parking lot by turning off of Pawtucket Boulevard at the lights as entry will not be permitted at the rear of the parking lot from Clyde Street or Wedgewood Circle.

“The Stop the Spread program has been a tremendous success in Lowell thus far and has enabled us to test thousands of residents for COVID-19, many of whom were asymptomatic and may not have been able to be tested otherwise,” said **Lowell Director of Health and Human Service Joanne Belanger**. “While testing a high volume of residents over the last several weeks, we are still continuing to see encouraging trends in COVID-19 transmission data in the City. Nevertheless, the availability of testing remains critical to our ability combat to the virus at the local level. I am grateful to our partners at Trinity EMS and Lowell Community Health Center and am looking forward to

continuing to work alongside them to enhance the accessibility of testing in Lowell. I encourage all residents to take advantage of this extended opportunity to be tested.”

The no-cost testing provided at this site is enabled by the “Stop the Spread” initiative, which launched on July 10 and seeks to curb the transmission of COVID-19 through expanding the availability of testing to asymptomatic residents in communities throughout Massachusetts. Lowell was among the original eight communities served by the program, which is now active in twenty communities across the Commonwealth. More information about the program is available at [mass.gov/stopthespread](https://mass.gov/stopthespread).

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