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City of Lowell Launches Daily COVID-19 Testing Site, Expanding Free Testing to City Residents

LOWELL, MA – Beginning Monday, December 7, the City of Lowell will offer free COVID-19 testing to Lowell residents at a new testing site launched in partnership with Cataldo Ambulance located at 32 Reiss Ave, behind the Showcase Cinema building. Testing will be conducted between the hours of 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM on December 7, and between 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM seven days a week thereafter until the end of the month. The test site is strictly limited to Lowell residents.

The site is equipped to test up to 500 residents per day. Residents seeking to be tested at the site are required to register for an appointment at a specific time, and are encouraged to arrive at the site as close to the time of their appointment as possible. Appointments can be reserved online at: cataldoambulance.com/covid-testing. All Lowell residents are eligible to be tested at this site, and are not required to be symptomatic or to have a referral from a doctor. Proof of Lowell residency in the form of a government issued ID or a current utility bill displaying a name and address will be required prior to testing. No proof of health insurance or U.S. citizenship is required.

The site will be closed on December 24, December 25 and December 31. As testing is taking place outdoors, residents are advised to remain alert to testing cancellation notices during inclement weather events. Cancellations will be broadcast via the City's website, lowellma.gov, and social media channels.

Testing at the City-funded site will be administered by medical personnel from Cataldo Ambulance utilizing anterior nasal swab RT-PCR tests. Once administered, tests will be processed by the Broad Institute in Cambridge. Results will be communicated to residents by email, text or phone call within 24-48 hours following testing.

The site is drive-up only. Residents who have reserved appointment should approach the site from Industrial Avenue, following Reiss Ave. towards the Showcase Cinema building, and enter the site via the driveway to the left of the building. The site cannot be accessed from Chelmsford Street (Rt. 110).

“This site will significantly increase the availability of COVID-19 testing for residents over the coming weeks, and will contribute to our ability to contain transmission of the virus as we continue to confront a surge in cases here in Lowell,” said **City Manager Eileen Donoghue**. “We encourage residents to take advantage of this convenient opportunity to get tested, but also to keep in mind that a negative test is not license for residents to let their guard down. While testing is a critical component of slowing the spread, it is equally important that all residents continue to do their part by wearing masks in public, keeping their distance from others, avoiding crowds and staying home as much as possible.”

The City’s announcement of expanded free testing follows an initial City-sponsored testing event on December 3 at Cawley Memorial Stadium, through which an estimated 450 residents were tested at no-cost to residents. This site, enabled through a partnership between the City of Lowell and Trinity EMS, will remain in place for the next two weeks, and will offer free testing on December 10 and December 17. Residents seeking testing on either of these two dates must register online at: trinityems.com/what-we-do/lowell-covid-19-testing. Testing at this site remains restricted to Lowell residents only.

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