



April 20, 2020

Pueblo County to Operate Drive-up Testing Site for COVID-19

April 20, 2020 Pueblo, CO - Pueblo County will open a drive-up testing site in Pueblo from Wednesday, April 22 through May 30 to test certain qualifying members of the public who have symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, difficulty breathing, and fever over 100.4). This testing site will be open to healthcare workers, first responders, individuals 65 years of age and older and critical infrastructure workers who have symptoms. The testing site is open to neighboring counties. No physician order is required.

Drive-up testing site details:

- **Time:** 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. weekly on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday
- **Location:** Colorado State Fair Grounds, 1001 Beulah Avenue, enter through Gate 4 off Mesa Avenue and Gaylord Avenue
- **Cost:** All testing will be free. Insurance will not be required.

“This is a great thing for our community,” exclaimed Randy Evetts, public health director of the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment. Evetts added, “in addition to letting community members know if they are positive with the COVID-19 virus public health will gain information of how widespread the virus is in Pueblo. Understanding the level of infection in our community informs our decision making for opening up the community.”

Information Details

- The first 250 individuals daily in the line will have access to the drive-up testing. All others that arrived after that will be encouraged to seek testing from a private provider or attend the next day. Individuals should contact their primary care provider before to determine if they have need to be tested.
- **Who can be tested:** You must have symptoms or have had contact with someone who has COVID-19 in order to be tested. Healthcare workers, first responders, individuals 65 years of age and older and critical infrastructure workers who have symptoms who wishes to get tested will go through a brief screening to determine if they qualify. No prescription required, but you must be experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and bring your ID and organization ID, if applicable.

Other important information for you to know:

- If you have a medical emergency, call 911- do not report to the testing site, as it is not a care facility. If you have severe respiratory symptoms, especially shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, tell the dispatcher about your symptoms. Do not wait for a COVID-19 test to call 911.
- If you are ill or suspect that you were exposed, but are not able to be immediately tested, please stay home, self-isolate, and contact your physician.
- For the safety of drive-up lab workers, hours of operation will be contingent upon safe weather. We will announce if we need to close the site due to unsafe conditions. Unsafe conditions include any weather that can make personal protection equipment ineffective, such as any precipitation, wind, or colder temperatures.
- While waiting for their test results, individuals should stay at home. Those who receive positive test results may be issued isolation orders. Depending on test volume, we aim to contact individuals directly with their results.

View Colorado's information about COVID-19 testing <https://covid19.colorado.gov/testing-covid-19>.

Everybody has a responsibility to protect the Pueblo community and our most vulnerable in Pueblo by:

- Follow Governor's [Stay At Home order](#) to stay at home through April 26, 2020.
- Wear a non-medical cloth face covering while out in public for necessary activities.
- Minimize social activities and being physically close to other people.
- Isolate yourself if you feel symptoms of shortness of breath, cough, temperature of 100.4 or higher call your medical provider before visiting them.
- **Do not go to the emergency room unless medically necessary.**
- Wash your hands with soap regularly.
- Cough or sneeze into elbow or tissue.
- Stay home when you're sick.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
- Avoid close contact with sick people.
- Clean surfaces frequently touched.

Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment encourages residents and media to seek out credible, reliable sources of information on COVID-19:

- www.puebloemergency.info
- Pueblo's COVID-19 Hotline 719-583-4444

All public and media inquiries in Pueblo are answered through the local hotline at **Pueblo's Joint Information Center. Pueblo COVID-19 Hotline is providing resources and answering questions 8AM – 5PM, Monday – Friday 719-583-4444.**

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