



COVID-19 IMT

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News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Carbon County COVID-19 Community Testing Event to be held Friday and Saturday

Carbon County, MT- The Carbon County COVID-19 Incident Management Team (IMT) will be holding a COVID-19 Community Drive-through Testing Event on Friday, June 12 and Saturday, June 13 from 9-3pm at the Red Lodge High School parking lot. This event is free and all Carbon County permanent and summer residents are encouraged to attend. The Montana National Guard will assist with testing.

The goal of this testing event is to survey the prevalence of the virus especially in asymptomatic and presymptomatic individuals in the community to establish a baseline for further monitoring and evaluation. This drive-through surveillance testing event will help us identify and prevent possible community spread events and further aid in assessing our community wide prevention efforts that have taken place so far. The test is a molecular test, not an antibody test and will only indicate if an individual has the virus at that time, not if they have had it in the past. Molecular tests are among the most accurate. Test results will be available in 3-5 days. Positive results will be confirmed with additional testing and followed up with standard public health protocols.

Testing will be quick and painless and is only inserted into the front of the nose. The testing site will consist of three drive through lanes which will test 10-12 vehicles per hour (one vehicle every 5-6 minutes). The entrance will be on the south end of the parking lot by Chambers Ave. with the exit on the north end of the lot. Walk and bike up testing will be accommodated. Traffic signs and National Guard personnel will help direct traffic. Testing will be available for those under 18 with parent or guardian consent. More detailed information on the testing plan will be available on CarbonAlert.org, Carbon Alert on Facebook and Instagram and during Facebook and Instagram Live engagements on Thursday at 10:00 am.

This testing event is part of a larger state-wide plan to closely monitor communities affected by heavy tourist visitation. In addition to this community surveillance testing, Carbon County will also be monitoring infection within our most vulnerable populations and front-line service workers. Voluntary periodic testing at assisted living, nursing and group homes is already underway and voluntary periodic testing will begin targeting service workers with high public interaction such as cashiers at grocery and convenience stores, wait staff at restaurants and bars and similar businesses. Funding for testing comes from the State and Health and Human Services. Similar testing and monitoring is being performed in other communities that see heavy tourist traffic within Montana.

Information on Carbon County's response to COVID-19 can be found at CarbonAlert.org. Updates are also available through Carbon Alert on Facebook and Instagram. For text updates to your mobile device, text: CovidCC to: 99411. Questions can be directed to covid19imt@co.carbon.mt.us or call 406-445-7258. More information on the state's response to COVID-19 can be found at covid19.mt.gov. For general information on COVID-19, visit cdc.gov or dphhs.mt.gov

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