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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WhidbeyHealth opens COVID-19 testing

Responding to Interim Guidance from the Washington State Department of Health, and in partnership with Island County Public Health, WhidbeyHealth has opened three swabbing stations on the island. Specimen collection will be conducted at the Walk-In Clinic Clinton, our Cabot Drive Clinic in Oak Harbor, and at the Medical Center in Coupeville. Testing times and locations are carefully scheduled and pre-registration by phone is required.

Call 911 if you have severe symptoms such as a very high fever, difficulty breathing, or inability to eat or drink.

You can be tested if you register in advance and meet certain criteria, including:

- Having a scheduled elective surgery at an off-island hospital. Ask your provider to fax your order to: 360-678-7631.
- Having attended a group activity with 50 or fewer people and have been notified that someone in the group has recently tested positive for COVID-19, even if you do not feel sick. You do not need to be a WhidbeyHealth patient.
- Running a fever, have developed a cough or lost your sense of smell and you suspect you may have Coronavirus.
- Traveling for convenience or business and need proof of a negative COVID-19 test. Please note that since health insurance will not cover testing in this case, you will be responsible for a bill for the test.

Test results will be available within 24-72 hours, depending on the volume at certified laboratories. Patients who test positive will receive a phone call from WhidbeyHealth. All results - including negative results - will be available on the WhidbeyHealth online patient portal. If you do not already have an account on the MyWhidbeyHealth hospital portal, sign up online here: <https://bit.ly/WhidbeyHealthPortal>. Please register for the Hospital portal, not the Clinic portal.

To register, call 360-240-4055 Monday to Friday between 7:00AM to 5:00PM and registrar. During that call, you will be directed to one of the swabbing stations for a specific time. Upon arrival, please stay in your car. Our Clinton and Oak Harbor locations have designated parking spots. At the medical center, follow signs to the drive-thru land near the Health Education Center. Place your car in park and turn off the ignition.

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The procedure involves swirling a swab into both nostrils. The swab is about the size of an ordinary Q-tip, much smaller than previous testing technologies.

It is very important to pre-register at 360-240-4055; persons who arrive without registration will not be tested. It is also important to understand that testing is subject to the availability of specimen collection supplies and PPE for our staff. There have been nationwide shortages of both.

Remember the three W's: Wear a mask. Wash your hands often. Watch your distance. Stay connected with us for current information at facebook.com/whidbeyhealth or on our website at whidbeyhealth.org.

