IREDELL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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HEALTH DIRECTOR

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Iredell County Health Department

NEWS RELEASE

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COVID-19 Testing

There are two types of testing available for the novel strain of coronavirus, COVID-19: viral tests and antibody tests. A viral test tells you if you are *currently* infected with COVID-19 and an antibody test tells you if you *have previously been infected* with COVID-19.

The most popular testing being done for suspected COVID-19 is viral testing. This test is the only test that will tell you if you are currently infected with COVID-19 and must be done by a medical professional using a nasal swab. If you test positive for COVID-19 by a viral test, it's important that you isolate from others in order to prevent further spread. If you test negative with a viral test, it does not mean that you will not get COVID-19 in the future. If recently exposed to someone infected with COVID-19, you may not have enough virus in your body to test positive at the time of testing. It's important to remember the result only means you did not have COVID-19 at the time of testing.

Most people will have mild illness and can recover at home without medical care. If you have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone who has tested positive and feel you need to be tested, we encourage you to reach out to your healthcare provider. Information on local testing sites in Iredell County can be found on our website: https://www.co.iredell.nc.us/1383/Coronavirus-COVID-19

An antibody test is done by having a simple blood draw. This type of testing will not show current infection because it typically takes 1-3 weeks after infection for your body to make antibodies. It is not currently known if having antibodies to the virus can protect someone from getting infected again or how long that protection might last. Positive antibody test results are not currently accepted by the NC Department of Health & Human Services and will not count toward the COVID-19 case-count. The antibody tests that are currently available have some limitations and the accuracy of the tests varies. The performance of these tests is currently being evaluated by the CDC in collaboration with other federal organizations. To receive antibody testing you are encouraged to reach out to your healthcare provider or contact a local lab and inquire about their available testing options.

Central Office
318 Turnersburg Hwy
Statesville, NC 28625
704-878-5300

Mooresville Site
610 E. Center Avenue
Mooresville, NC 28115
704-664-5281

Environmental Health
349 N. Center Street
Statesville, NC 28677
704-878-5305 x3456

www.co.iredell.nc.us/161/Health-Department

The Iredell County Health Department does not currently offer COVID-19 testing to the community. Our agency continues to work with local medical providers, labs, long-term care facilities and Iredell County EMS to ensure testing is available to those who need it.

It is recommended that you continue to take preventative measures to protect yourself and others by following the guidance below:

- Practice social distancing, which means avoiding gatherings of more than 10 people while keeping 6 feet or more between you
- Frequent hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw it in the trash
- Stay home when you're sick and keep distance from others who are sick
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands
- Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces in common areas like doorknobs, remotes, light switches, tables, handles, steering wheels, wallets and phones.
- Wear a cloth mask or face covering when out in public where you may be around people like grocery stores or pharmacies and still try to practice social distancing, wash your hands and keep your hands away from your mouth, nose and eyes

For general information from the Iredell County Health Department about COVID-19, please visit our COVID-19 webpage: https://www.co.iredell.nc.us/1383/Coronavirus-COVID-19

To view COVID-19 data specific to Iredell County, please visit our COVID-19 Data webpage: https://nc-iredellcounty.civicplus.com/1392/Iredell-County-COVID-19-Data

Individuals with general questions about COVID-19 or who need access to support services can call **2-1-1** (or 888-892-1162) for assistance 24 hours a day/7 days a week.

Additional information related to COVID-19 is available from the following resources:

NCDHHS-DPH: www.ncdhhs.gov/covid19
CDC: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

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