



RAYMOND F. PRZYBELSKI, DIRECTOR
(715) 345-5350 or Toll Free (866) 920-2525
FAX (715) 345-5966

RUTH GILFRY HUMAN RESOURCES BUILDING
817 WHITING AVENUE
STEVENS POINT, WI 54481-5292

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 18, 2020

CONTACT: pcpublichealth@co.portage.wi.us

Free COVID-19 Testing in Portage County with National Guard Assistance

In response to the rising number of COVID-19 cases in Portage County and throughout the state, the Wisconsin National Guard will be offering free drive-through COVID-19 testing, in which a nasal swab test will be conducted. Drive-up testing will be available at Portage County Health and Human Services, in the back parking lot, at 817 Whiting Avenue in Stevens Point on Tuesday, September 22 from 8 am until 4 pm, or until tests run out. Please access Whiting Avenue off of River View Ave/HH.

Testing is offered to all Portage County and Wisconsin residents ages 5 and older who think they may have been exposed to COVID-19, or, are demonstrating one or more of the following symptoms: fever, cough, loss of taste/smell, shortness of breath, sore throat, fatigue, body aches, diarrhea, vomiting, nausea, chills, or muscle aches.

No appointment is necessary, and testing is offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Generally, test results are known within 48 hours of samples being submitted.

Participants will be asked to provide a current address, identify county of residence, a phone number and answer screening questions. Participants are to remain in their vehicles at all times. National Guard members will be in uniform and wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) including gowns, masks, and gloves while conducting tests.

Participants are asked to please have patience, drive with caution, and follow directions. Drivers will be directed to enter the drive thru testing at Portage County HHS from highway HH to Whiting Avenue. Individuals tested will be advised to return directly home and self-isolate themselves until they receive their test results and further guidance from public health. Each participant will be informed of their results by phone.

Ascension Medical Group, Aspirus- Stevens Point Campus, and Marshfield Clinic continue to offer testing opportunities. Other free community testing events can be found at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services website here:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/testing.htm>. The community-wide testing site at Portage County HHS is being supported by numerous community partners including the Division of Public Health, Stevens Point Police Department, Portage County Sheriff's Office, Stevens Point EMS, Portage County Emergency Management, Portage County Facilities Department, and Portage County Highway Department.

If you have questions or immediate needs related to COVID-19, call 2-1-1 or text COVID-19 to 211-211

###

Where Government Serves the Community