**Resources for Becoming a Community COVID-19 Testing Site**

Last updated 4/30/20

On April 14, 2020, the Colorado Unified Command Center (UCC) began accepting community testing site requests.  The UCC’s goal is to build public-private partnerships to increase testing capacity across Colorado. CHCs can become testing sites. Currently, STRIDE is already a community test site. If you are interested in becoming a testing site, please see a summary of next steps you need to follow to become a testing site.

**Planning Resources**

CDPHE developed the [community testing playbook](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WPK0uWeZl74mQw4xppWJqdBFCIiir0rnUDljRHbI5DM/edit), a manual that includes guidelines to support continuity of testing capabilities and to ensure that organizations have the information needed to set up and operate the testing sites. This playbook was created primarily for Local Public Health Agencies but contains valuable information to inform CHCs’ planning process as well.

The playbook includes sections on the following:

* Site Basics – a set of questions to consider when choosing a site
* Coordination with State Lab for testing – contact information for the state lab coordinators.  The interested organization needs to contact the state lab prior to the event with the logistics of the event
* Site Set Up – includes a list of areas to keep in mind when designing the site, such as security, PPE donning area, temperature verification and assessment, registration, swabbing, PPE doffing area, administrative area and break areas
* Recommended Materials – a lists of items the organization may need to operate the testing site, such as tables, traffic cones, tables, chairs, pop-up tents, among others
* Position Descriptions – includes descriptions of the duties for screening, temperature verification/assessment, registration, and specimen collection
* PPE Recommendations – provides recommendations on what PPE to use depending on what position the staff is holding and procedures in what order PPE should be donned and doffed
* Site Breakdown – how to breakdown the site after the testing period is complete
* Site Safety and Security Considerations and Best Practices – recommendations to consider running the site
* Lab Procedures – procedures on how to handle the lab samples
* Reporting Test Results – a set of procedures on who and how the test results will be shared with the patients
* Access and Functional Needs Considerations – access to language services as necessary
* Public Information - Work with your local public information officers, your community joint information center and the State EOC Joint Information Center to ensure clear, consistent messaging and to ensure that the sites are well visited and testing maximums are met each day.
* Lessons Learned, Tips and Best Practices from Existing Sites – a collection of best practices
* Contact Information – CDPHE contact information for site coordination information, site technical assistance and state lab contact information
* Appendix – provides examples on how previous labs have been set up

**CHC-Specific Considerations**

CHCs considering serving as community testing sites may want to know the following:

* If a CHC provides community testing at an existing CHC site, those activities are covered by FTCA. CHCs should ensure there are appropriate risk management practices in place.
* If a COVID-19 test is the only service a patient receives from the CHC at the time of community testing, they do not have to be counted as a patient for the purposes of UDS and do not have to be enrolled as a patient of the CHC.
* CHCs may want to review the [HRSA COVID-19 FAQ](https://bphc.hrsa.gov/emergency-response/coronavirus-frequently-asked-questions.html#care) for additional information.

**Next Steps**

If interested in becoming a community testing site, please fill outa[Community Testing Site Request.](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furldefense.proofpoint.com%2Fv2%2Furl%3Fu%3Dhttps-3A__docs.google.com_forms_d_e_1FAIpQLSd26YFa0UQvy-5Fr4HAHyrF0YcYrNCJf7-5FkhUywi5x-2DHccUSAmA_viewform-3Fusp-3Dpp-5Furl%26d%3DDwMFaQ%26c%3DsdnEM9SRGFuMt5z5w3AhsPNahmNicq64TgF1JwNR0cs%26r%3Ds7ShaXzUNO5dcSuR1RRstQD3BxccX08g5EGWU-1eKhpyDniElmu--a9RNtgWzoR2%26m%3DKryonOBFNnkAv4tKqCSBocwaPguDuzuGL3tQcSOBt2w%26s%3Dg20x45CwjoAY8L0EKK3CemRgln0E3ZTOsO3Rx1B5MeY%26e%3D&data=02%7C01%7Cpaula%40cchn.org%7C34ce6e36d2f3447dbdbe08d7ec669c98%7C2e4fd05cee014c70acc910de0e037f55%7C1%7C0%7C637237797778244214&sdata=p%2FptU7GvQO1epxzCBf9oxFqwxAoJ7yStCzGGQ2gj2vU%3D&reserved=0)  The request should outline the plan and the needs for a testing site in your community. The State Lab reviews the plan and provides technical assistance. The State Lab will provide initial testing supplies (swabs and transport media) and personal protective equipment (PPE) to agencies that are ready to carry out their plan. CHCs provide the testing sites, site management, and staff to collect samples. The State Lab, along with affiliated labs that the state contracts with, will process these tests.

If preferable, CHCs can also collaborate and partner with their Local Public Health Agency or their Local Office of Emergency Management to set up a community testing sites.

**Questions?**

If you need any assistance or have questions, please contact Paula Davis, paula@cchn.org.