The Herald-Dispatch — Huntington, WV, Thursday, March 26, 2020 Questions? Call the newsroom at 304-526-2798 www.herald-dispatch.com

Regional drive-through COVID-19 test sites open

By TAYLOR SUNK
The Herald-Dispatch newsroom

HUNTINGTON — With more than 200 new cases of COVID-19 reported in Cabell and other counties on Tuesday and the number of cases on the rise, local officials are working fast to open test sites in Cabell and Kanawha counties.

Most sites require that patients be symptomatic, and, though that guideline appears to be changing, Cabell County Health Department officials still must vet the criteria set by the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (HHR) and the West Virginia Bureau of Public Health (BPW) to open test sites.

The criteria:

- Seriously ill individuals
- Hospitalized or otherwise at high risk of complications
- Those with symptoms of COVID-19
- Those hospitalized, near-hospitalized or otherwise at high risk of poor health outcomes (e.g., those who are elderly or have serious underlying chronic diseases, nursing home residents, etc.) and who do not have another identified cause for their illness (e.g., other respiratory viruses)

Test sites, by provider:

- Marshall Regional Health Network and the Cabell County Health Department
- Dr. Mary’s Center for Education

Gov. Jim Justice issued an executive order to Indians, peak illness (cough, shortness of breath) and a history of diabetes. The sites will be open within 14 days of symptom onset (e.g., close contact with an individual having COVID-19 or recent travel history from or living in an area with widespread community transmission) and do not have another identified cause for their illness (e.g., other respiratory viruses). There is no threat to public health.

Dr. Jeremy Harwood, associate medical director of Marshall Regional, said the centers are currently staffed with local nurses and respiratory therapists to administer the tests. Marshall Regional and Cabell County are working together to develop an integrated plan.

In Marshall County, the site will be located on the ground floor of the Cabell Huntington Hospital, 1000 9th Ave., Huntington.

In Kanawha County, the site is located on the southeast corner of the Cabell Huntington Hospital, 1000 9th Ave., Huntington.

According to Justice, the tests will be available to Marshall Regional patients who are residents of Marshall County and to Cabell County residents who are not patients of Marshall Regional.

Additionally, Justice said Marshall Regional is currently ordering the necessary supplies to open the site by the end of March. The tests will be used for patients who have been identified as having COVID-19 by their primary care provider and do not have a hospital admission.

Marshall Regional and Cabell County continue to partner with the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (HRD) and the West Virginia Bureau of Public Health (BPW) to provide testing.

Effective Tuesday, March 24, test sites in Cabell County will be open to anyone, regardless of symptoms, for COVID-19 testing.

The sites will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday to anyone, regardless of symptoms, for COVID-19 testing. The sites are located at:

1. 1000 9th Ave., Huntington
2. 1000 9th Ave., Huntington

Any person who has been tested for COVID-19 and is found to be positive should contact their health care provider immediately. The test result will be sent to the local health department.

The site is located on the southeast corner of the Cabell Huntington Hospital, 1000 9th Ave., Huntington.

The site is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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