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The Tribune and The Sentinel are teaming up to cover Niagara County as the community continues to reflect on, respond to, and ultimately recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to print newspapers, these publications will be available in their entirety – for free – at www.wnypapers.com.



New York state has initiated a drive-thru COVID-19 testing site at Niagara County Community College in Sanborn. (Photo by Mark Williams Jr.)

State conducting drive-thru coronavirus testing at NCCC

Cloth masks available for all Niagara County businesses

Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo on Monday announced the state would open five new drive-through testing facilities in Monroe, Erie, Broome, Niagara and Oneida Counties. On Saturday, the state expanded diagnostic testing criteria to include all first responders, health care workers and essential employees, even if they aren't symptomatic. These individuals will be able to get tested for COVID-19 at these new drive-thru facilities. Residents who would like to be tested at these facilities must make an appointment by calling 888-364-3065 or online at covid19screening.health.ny.gov.

The Niagara County testing site is at Niagara County Community College in Sanborn.

Speaking with Niagara County Legislature Chairwoman Becky Wydysh Monday afternoon on LCTV, Public Health Director Dan Stapleton said, "There will be an exercise to get samples. ..."

"It's something that the state is doing – they're in charge of that. But we've met with them. We've offered ability to partner with them in any way that they need. If they need staff, if they need help with logistics, we're going to be helping them in any way we can – because we want to make sure this is successful for them. But even more importantly, that our residents who need to get tested, get tested as soon as possible."

"Of course, it's going to be through people preregistering. You can't have 1,000, 2,000 cars

coming through without having some organization. So, it will be preregistered people.

"I've talked to the commander who's in charge of this thing. They're going to be ready to roll. This is what they do. They've been moving throughout New York state. They did Albany not too long ago. They had 18 days in a row of testing – of sampling; and we expect that they'll be doing plenty of sampling to make sure people ... get the testing as soon as possible."

"And we're willing to partner with them any way we can."

On Thursday, Wydysh said, "That site is being run by the state Department of Health, and they are requiring that you preregister to be tested at that site."

Again, you can call 1-888-364-3065, or head to the website (covid19screening.health.ny.gov).

"When you call, you will get an intake operator who will take your information. They will then call you back with your appointment to be tested if you qualify."

"We're hearing that they are testing many people at that site. It's really ramped up, starting today, especially, they're seeing many people at that facility. So, if you believe you want or need to be tested, please call that 800 number and talk to the state about getting on that list."

"We don't know how long that facility will be up and running. Again, because it's run by the state, we can't answer those

SEE TESTING, continued on Page 2

INSIDE:

- Niagara County plans to 'ReStart, ReThink, ReConfigure'
- NCCC Class of 2020 'chips' in for local health care heroes
- Law enforcement agencies in Niagara County partner on resident checks
- Community giving spreads from California to Lewiston at Mount St. Mary's Hospital

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