



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER**

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## **New Neighborhood Testing Site Begins Offering COVID-19 Testing in Grand Rapids**

**LANSING, MICH.** A new Neighborhood Testing Site in Grand Rapids opens today, bringing the total number of community sites offering COVID-19 testing to 21. The Michigan Department of the Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is working with trusted community partners including churches, community colleges and nonprofit organizations to launch the sites.

The site, at Garfield Park Gym, 2111 Madison Avenue SE, Grand Rapids, will offer testing Thursdays from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Fridays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"Neighborhood testing sites have proven to be a valuable resource for communities across the state to ensure free testing is available to all Michiganders," said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy of health at MDHHS. "Since these sites were opened at the end of August, more than 16,000 Michiganders have been tested at one of the Neighborhood Testing Sites. Locations were chosen in part to help address racial and ethnic disparities that existed prior to the pandemic and were exacerbated by the virus."

"We are pleased to collaborate with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and Kent County Health Department to bring COVID-19 testing to our Garfield Park neighborhood," said Grand Rapids Mayor Rosalynn Bliss. "Providing free health screening to our most vulnerable residents is critical as we all work together to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. And this is another example of how we are working with partners to reduce health disparities in our community."

The new sites join 20 other sites in Albion, Benton Harbor, Detroit, Ecorse, Flint, Graying, Lansing, Niles, Roseville, Saginaw and Wayne. Language translation is being provided at all sites, as well as assistance for the deaf and hard of hearing.

"As we continue to encourage the people of Kent County to get tested, we are grateful to have this additional resource in our community," said Dr. Adam London, administrative health officer with the Kent County Health Department. "Ensuring access to quality testing is a key part of our strategy to identify cases and limit COVID-19's ability to spread."

Testing sites are offering saliva tests, which are less invasive than nasal swabs and may make the testing process more tolerable for some people. Appointments are strongly encouraged and can be made either by calling the COVID-19 hotline at 888-535-6136 and selecting "1," or online. Walk-ins will be taken as space allows, but pre-registration is strongly advised. Online registration is available [at Michigan.gov/CoronavirusTest](https://www.michigan.gov/CoronavirusTest).

Test results can be obtained via phone, email or by logging into the results portal.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](https://michigan.gov/Coronavirus) and [CDC.gov/Coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/Coronavirus).

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