



Lackawanna County

Commissioners

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Lackawanna County COVID-19 Older Adults Communal Setting Testing Program

The Lackawanna County Commissioners Jerry Notarianni, Debi Domenick, Esq., and Chris Chermak have further deepened their commitment to combating the COVID-19 virus on all fronts by organizing a consortium of local health and social service agencies to provide testing for older adults in local communal settings throughout the area.

The County, its Area Agency on Aging and its Office of Economic Planning & Development have teamed-up with The Wright Center, NeighborWorks NEPA, United Neighborhood Centers, the United Way of Lackawanna & Wayne Counties, and Telespond Senior Services to provide testing for those over the age of 60 that are living in communal settings.

The Commissioners stressed that the impetus for this action is to safeguard a very valuable and vulnerable segment of our population who may not have access to either testing or transportation to get a facility.

The goal of the program is to reach 55 communal setting locations in every part of Lackawanna County. The initiative is prioritizing high risk buildings, but also casting a large net to provide as many diverse testing locations as possible. The testing program, scheduled to kick-off December 30, will continue as long as the resources and test kits are available.

Each communal location will be surveyed for interest and given a testing date as resources are made available. The facility must provide the number of tests needed beforehand. The testing will not be done on a first come, first serve basis, but rather who registered beforehand. The program will not guarantee the ability to provide testing if the individual has not preregistered.

As the tests become available, the Area Agency on Aging will identify the locations and coordinate the testing and information dissemination with the community partners. Interested individuals will be asked have to share their insurance information but will bear no cost or copay for the test or results. Even if an individual is not insured, the test will be covered at no cost.

Testing will be completed on site in the Wright Centers Mobil Unit. Volunteers and Aging staff will be on-hand to coordinate logistics, and Telespond will provide support for those who need assistance due to mobility challenges.