



TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION HEALTH CARE



DATE: July 14, 2020

COVID-19 Drive-Thru Testing Results from July 8, 2020 Sells, Eugene P. Tashquinth Sr. Livestock Complex

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TONHC held a drive-through COVID-19 testing event on July 8, 2020 at the Eugene P. Tashquinth Sr. Livestock Complex. We are grateful for the collaboration from TON- Unified Command, the Arizona National Guard, T-Gen Diagnostic Laboratory, TONHC team members, and the public.

This large-scale testing was aimed to screen people without symptoms who attended a funeral held June 24-25, 2020 where several positive cases of COVID-19 were identified.

Safety for the public and testing teams as the first priority, in order to prepare, TONHC requested that the public call for appointments to pre-register.

Persons tested

- Total tested: 316
- Pre-registrations: 249 (79%).
- Walk-ins (no-appointment): 67 (21%).
- Results were available in 3 days, almost 4 days sooner than T-Gen initially anticipated.

Test Results

- Positive for COVID-19: 17 (5.4%)
- Negative for COVID-19: 289 (91.2%)
- Unable to perform test: 11 (3.4%)

Conclusions

- Results suggest community-transmission is occurring on the Tohono O'odham Nation.
- Gatherings, including funerals, likely increase the risk of getting infected.
- Drive-thru testing can offer large scale testing, but will require continued outside support and partnership for future events. Over 50 staff were needed for this event.

Actions

- TONHC Public Health Nursing contacted all positive cases, provided guidance, and requested that close contacts be evaluated and tested.
- Nurse teams are completing calls to persons with negative results.
- Persons whose test was unable to be performed were asked to re-test this week.
- If you have not received your lab result, please call Public Health Nursing at (520) 383-7205.



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Guidance

Positive tests:

- Persons who test positive must be in isolation for minimum of 10 days from the test date to avoid spread: This means July 18, or longer if symptoms develop.
- Household members of anyone who tested positive must be in quarantine for 14 days to watch for symptoms. This means August 1, or longer if symptoms develop.
- Re-testing is not recommended for most people. Many people, even if fully recovered, will test positive for several weeks after infection due to presumed “dead virus RNA” lingering in the nose. Most people who have recovered have a low likelihood of being contagious to others. Current recommendations include that a person with a positive re-test result will need to isolate for an additional 10 days. TONHC has only been re-testing for dialysis patients and special circumstances. If employers require re-testing, this is performed through their occupational health company.
- TONHC teams can help answer specific questions and provide a note to return to work.

Negative tests and guidance for the general public:

- Maintain high-risk prevention measures and watch for any illness symptoms.
- Always wear a mask in public spaces.
- Stay 6 feet away from others.
- Avoid all gatherings, even with close relatives who do not live with you.
- Take actions to minimize your risk.
- Remember, getting tested today only gives you today's result. A negative result does not protect you or your family tomorrow. Stay in quarantine if directed.

COVID-19 Prevention

Pandemic COVID-19 will not stop without the public's help. Don't expose others or get exposed to COVID-19. Exposure usually means being around someone with COVID-19 within 6 feet, for 10-15 minutes, and not wearing masks.

- If you are exposed, STAY HOME until you get guidance from a provider. Do not expose others.
- Isolation or quarantine are **very important** during this time.
- Testing is recommended 5-14 days after exposure for more accurate results.
- Remember, getting tested today only gives you today's result. You could get exposed again.
- Testing does not prevent COVID-19.
- A negative result does not protect you or your family. Only you can.

Stay at home except for essential activities.

If you are sick or worried about exposure to COVID-19, please call your provider or TONHC Public Health Nursing for evaluation and testing recommendations. If testing is recommended at TONHC, please call for an appointment. Do not show up without an appointment. Testing can cause you to sneeze contagious spray and health care staff need to prepare for you.

Sells: 520-383-7209

San Simon: 520-362-7078

San Xavier: 520-295-2529 or 520-295-2590

TONHC Public Health Nursing: 520-383-7205