

***Town of Weymouth
Massachusetts***

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Press Release

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Town of Weymouth partners with South Shore Health to provide COVID-19 testing for essential town employees and residents

Through federal CARES Act funding, Mayor Hedlund and Weymouth Town Officials partnered with South Shore Hospital to provide daily COVID-19 testing to essential town employees, including first responders and school personnel, as well as Weymouth residents.

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Weymouth, MA – As the demand and need for COVID-19 testing increases, Mayor Hedlund is pleased to announce that employees and residents of the Town of Weymouth will have access to town-sponsored COVID-19 testing services.

The Town has partnered with South Shore Hospital, part of South Shore Health, who will provide testing kits, supplies and clinicians to administer tests. The tests will be free to town of Weymouth employees and residents, and will be paid for with the Town's federal CARES Act funding.

"We are pleased to partner with our home town on an important program that is part of the solution to this ongoing public health crisis," **said Jason Tracy, Chief of Emergency Medicine, South Shore Health.**

The drive-through testing site will be located at the Weymouth High School. Tests will be conducted daily BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Hours and more detailed information will be announced soon on the Town of Weymouth website and through social media.

Testing for town of Weymouth employees, including first responders and school employees, is expected to begin on Monday, December 28, 2020. Testing will continue for at least three months.

"A crucial component to minimize the spread of COVID-19 is community testing," **said Mayor Hedlund**. "Using funds received through the federal CARES Act, the Town, working with South Shore Hospital, is able to provide testing to Weymouth employees and residents to directly address the ongoing risks and burdens posed by COVID-19."

The tests will be a PCR shallow nasal swab provided by and processed through the Broad Institute, which created a high-throughput COVID-19 testing facility in mid-March and has conducted over 5 million tests to date in service of Massachusetts' public health needs. Patients are expected to receive results within 24 to 48 hours. Up to one hundred tests will be available daily for the first two weeks and then increased to up to 200 tests conducted daily.

"I want to express my gratitude to our COVID-19 testing team, led by Chief of Staff Ted Langill and Director of Asset Management John MacLeod and also includes school and health officials, who have worked tirelessly over the last few weeks to make our testing site and program a reality," **added Mayor Hedlund**.

More detailed information, including testing hours and the scheduling website will be announced soon on the Town of Weymouth website and through social media.

Residents may also contact the COVID-19 Testing hotline at 781-682-3880 for additional information. The hotline is staffed Monday thru Saturday from 9am to 3pm.

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