COVID-19 Testing Update: August 2020

CORONAVIRUS and You

George Regional Health System wants to be sure our community stays updated on the latest Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing options and treatment. Mississippi is now among the fastest and highest rates of spread in the United States, and while our numbers are still low, they are continuing to climb.

We are working to ensure our community can obtain reliable COVID testing for everyone that seeks it. To date, we've provided almost 3,400 tests. As the virus continues to spread, testing will be important so that people can quarantine quickly.

Currently, there are 3 types of COVID-19 tests; *Molecular, Antigen, and Antibody*. Molecular testing is the most accurate and it takes two to four days for results, this is what GRHS uses. Antigen testing is the rapid test you hear about that returns results in 15 minutes. The FDA states they are less accurate. In fact, if you have any symptoms and receive a negative Antigen test you should not rely on the result but rather you should seek Molecular testing. GRHS understands Antigen testing has its place so we plan on having that option in the near future.

Our COVID HOTLINE—601-673-6101—is active and available 24/7. We are also continuing to screen and test patients at our three testing sites for those who think they are experiencing symptoms of the virus. Be sure to call ahead to one of the numbers listed below. We can normally see you the same day. Symptoms are widespread and include fever, headache, weakness, nasal congestion, sore throat, loss of taste and/or smell, productive cough, and gastrointestinal issues.

Although people can transmit the virus when they are asymptomatic, it's definite they can transmit while displaying symptoms. That's why it's so important to isolate quickly at the first sign of any new symptom. We encourage our seniors and other vulnerable population to take all the recommended precautions: masks, hand washing, and distancing.

While a vaccine could be in our future, right now outpatient care consists of treating the symptoms. For patients who need inpatient care, our hospitals have the latest drug regimen available, if needed.

If you feel like you need to be tested, please call for an appointment first.

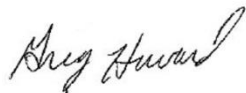**Testing Site Locations:**
Community Medical Center
92 West Ratliff Street / Lucedale / 601-947-8181

Wiggins Primary Care
975 Hall Street / Wiggins / 601-528-9119

Greene County Family Medical Clinic
1017 Jackson Street / Leakesville / 601-394-2820

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