

March 16, 2020

A Message from Kaiser Permanente: Drive-Up Testing for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Kaiser Permanente has set up **limited** drive-up COVID-19 testing at five of its medical hub facilities in the mid-Atlantic region. We are offering drive-up testing for Kaiser Permanente members who have a doctor's order for the tests, in accordance with the latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines. The Baltimore Medical center was the first site to test a drive-up testing procedure last week. We now have drive-up locations in Gaithersburg and Largo in Maryland as well as Woodbridge and Tyson's Corner in Virginia. We will also have an additional testing site at our Capital Hill Medical Center in a few days.

- **Benefits:** There are many benefits to drive up testing including:
 - Allows us to efficiently and rapidly conduct COVID tests
 - Keeps patients in their cars while they are swabbed for COVID-19 and other tests if needed
 - Helps to preserve vital protective equipment because less is used during a drive-up test. There is currently a nationwide shortage of personal protective equipment.
 - Helps to keep possible community members with COVID-19 out of health care facilities and away from other patients and staff

- **Who can get tested?** Patients receiving tests at the five sites must be Kaiser Permanente members and have a doctor's order for the test as well as an appointment, scheduled in advance by the physician.

- **Do we have adequate testing supplies for COVID-19?** We have a **limited** number of testing supplies, but as with care givers and hospitals around the country facing resupply issues, we anticipate needing more testing supplies as the number of possible COVID-19 cases increases. We are adhering strictly to CDC guidance for whom should be tested.
 - We know that COVID-19 has moved to community spread. As a result, everyone should recognize that there may be cases of COVID-19 in the community that do not meet the current testing criteria. The vital message here is that if you have symptoms that include fever, cough or shortness of breath or have been exposed to someone who may have COVID-19, please stay home and contact your physician. Please do not go directly to a hospital or doctor's office without calling first.

- **Will we test non-KP members if the pandemic grows?** At this time, we are only able to test Kaiser Permanente members. We will certainly follow any national and state guidance on expanding testing as we see increased cases.