

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council****May 11, 2021**

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SUBJECT: COVID-19 TESTING ALTERNATIVES

On March 23, 2021, an informal report was presented to City Council regarding COVID-19 testing sites. As previously reported, demand for testing began to decline dramatically in January 2021. In February 2021, local staff and resources shifted from testing operations to vaccination sites. The City of Fort Worth and Tarrant County coordinated with the State of Texas and State contractors to continue public testing services at two Fort Worth locations: JP Elder Middle School and Tarrant County College – South Campus.

In March and April 2021, demand for testing continued to decline. At the end of March 2021, the Tarrant County College – South Campus location provided fewer than 25 tests per day, and the site was closed by the State on March 31, 2021. At the end of April 2021, the JP Elder Middle School location provided fewer than 20 tests per day, and the site was again closed by the State on April 30, 2021.

COVID-19 Testing Options

COVID-19 testing remains widely available at pharmacies, hospitals, doctor's offices and private contractor sites throughout the community. These tests typically require health insurance or cash payment. However, free testing (provided by the State of Texas) is still available in Tarrant County:

- TCC - Southeast Campus (9 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily; cheek swab method)
2100 Southeast Parkway, Arlington, TX 76108
- Tarrant County Northeast Annex (9 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily; cheek swab method)
837 Brown Trail, Bedford, TX 76022

The State of Texas will continue to monitor use at these two public, no-cost locations, each month; sites are anticipated to close when utilization drops. In addition to these resources, the City of Fort Worth and Tarrant County will assist any resident with access to testing with materials and partners. These tests are available at no cost, with or without insurance. As a reminder, the City is prepared to reinstate testing options throughout the community, if public demand returns.

For a full list of available testing locations, visit: <https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/covid-19/testing>. Anyone needing assistance accessing a free COVID-19 test can contact the COVID-19 hotline by calling 817-392-8478 or emailing COVID19@fortworthtexas.gov.

For questions regarding this information, please contact Brandon Bennett, Code Compliance Director, at 817-391-6322.

David Cooke
City Manager