

# Wyandotte County Health Equity Task Force



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## PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 8, 2020**

### **Task Force Expands Pop-up Testing in Wyandotte County**

*Wyandotte County Health Equity Task Force announces additional COVID-19 testing sites*

The Wyandotte County Health Equity Task Force announced today that it has increased the number of pop-up COVID-19 testing sites being offered throughout the County during the month of May. The mission of the Task Force is to make testing and other resources more accessible and equitable to underserved members of the community.

“To reach more of our community members, we need to hold testing clinics at locations in peoples’ neighborhoods, at organizations they know and trust,” said Patrick Sallee, CEO of Vibrant Health. “From the race and ethnicity data we have seen for our county, we know that the COVID-19 virus, as well as many chronic health conditions that increase risk with COVID-19, do not impact everyone in our community equally. This means it is especially important for us to make testing more accessible.”

#### **Testing Opportunities**

The Task Force held its first pop-up testing event on Monday, April 20, 2020, at All Saints Parish (Todos Los Santos). Since then, several other pop-ups have been held at a variety of community host sites, including a local college, a public library and other area churches. So far, approximately 200 community members have been tested through these events.

Multiple drive-thru testing sites in Wyandotte County have been scheduled for the month of May at locations throughout the community. These locations were carefully selected to increase access to COVID-19 testing for underserved populations. Testing events are held in coordination with Vibrant Health and Swope Health.

Upcoming sites include:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time (<i>subject to change</i>)</b>	<b>Location in Kansas City, KS</b>	<b>In partnership with</b>
Friday, 5/8	3-6 p.m.	St. Patrick's Church 1086 N 94th St	Vibrant Health
Monday, 5/11	3-6 p.m.	Oak Ridge Missionary Baptist Church 9301 Parallel Pkwy	Vibrant Health
Tuesday, 5/12	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Roswell Church of Christ 2900 Roswell Ave	Vibrant Health
Wednesday, 5/13	3-6 p.m.	New Bethel Church 745 Walker Ave	Vibrant Health
Thursday, 5/14	11 a.m. – 3 p.m.	La Fe en Jesu Cristo 1500 Central Ave	Swope Health
Thursday, 5/14	3-6 p.m.	Cross-Lines Community Outreach 736 Shawnee Ave	Vibrant Health
Friday, 5/15	11 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Zotung Christian Church 5041 State Ave	Vibrant Health

Testing is provided free of charge to Wyandotte County residents. Individuals who want to be tested must register in advance by calling 913-371-9298 (calls answered by Community Health Council of Wyandotte County). Testing is provided regardless of a person's immigration status, health coverage or ability to pay.

### **Wyandotte County Health Equity Task Force**

The Task Force was formed in response to the race and ethnicity COVID-19 data, and the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on minority communities. The group focuses on making testing and other resources more accessible and equitable to underserved members of the community. The Task Force represents a partnership of community organizations including:

- Argentine Assembly of God, Hosanna Christian Network Radio
- Bethel Neighborhood Center
- Calvary Temple Baptist Church
- Grandview Park Presbyterian Church, MORE<sup>2</sup>, and Advocates for Immigrant Rights and Reconciliation (AIRR)
- Groundwork NRG
- JUNTOS Center for Advancing Latino Health
- Livable Neighborhoods Taskforce
- NBC Community Development Corporation
- Salem Baptist Church
- Unified Government
- Unified Government Public Health Department

- University of Kansas Family Medicine
- University of Kansas Health System
- University of Kansas Medical Center
- Vibrant Health
- Wyandotte Health Foundation
- Wyandotte residents

The Health Equity Task Force is in the process of scheduling multiple testing sites each week throughout the month of May. A map of testing locations and other testing details can be found on the Unified Government's COVID-19 webpage at [www.wycokck.org/COVID-19](http://www.wycokck.org/COVID-19). Click on the COVID Hub, then click on the section that says "Experiencing Symptoms? Get Tested!"

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