



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### AZUSA CITY COUNCIL APPROVES FREE COVID-19 TESTING SITE

**Azusa, Ca—August 5, 2020—** During a special meeting held on Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, the Azusa City Council approved an agreement between the City and County of Los Angeles to launch an indoor COVID-19 testing site. COVID-19 testing will be available to anyone who believes they need one, regardless of insurance, ability to pay or whether they have symptoms or not. Tests are free and County residents do not need medical insurance to get tested. However, if you have health insurance, your insurance may be billed.

Los Angeles County Department of Health Services has secured the site operator, Optum, to provide COVID-19 testing services in the City of Azusa at the North Recreation Center (NRC) at Memorial Park, 340 N. Orange Place, Azusa, starting on Tuesday August 11<sup>th</sup>.

“Optum is honored to assist California in expanding COVID-19 testing for their residents,” said Patty Horoho, CEO of OptumServe. “We will bring the full commitment and capabilities of UnitedHealth Group to serving Californians, including extensive experience conducting large community health events.”

Testing will be available by appointment only. Internet appointments can be made by visiting <https://lhi.care/covidtesting> or by telephone at 888-634-1123, 24 hour a day and 7 days a week. Tests will be administered in the NRC Tuesday through Saturday from 7:00 am to 7:00 p.m.

The increased access to community testing will help the County meet an intended goal of expanding COVID-19 testing capacity by over 65% in targeted communities. These additional testing sites will be located in areas of higher test positivity and where the testing rate does not meet the State threshold of 1.5 tests per 1,000 residents daily. In conducting this expansion, the County’s aim is to add six new sites in high-need areas including Montebello, South Gate, Azusa, Panorama City, Compton and Downey/Norwalk, and to expand capacity at existing sites in Bellflower, Pomona, El Monte and East Los Angeles.

“We need to test as many residents as possible to get an accurate sense of how widespread COVID-19 is in our community,” said Azusa Mayor, Robert Gonzales. “Testing is crucial to help treat, trace, isolate or hospitalize people who are infected. Testing also is important in the bigger public health picture, helping public health experts characterize the prevalence, spread and contagiousness of the disease.”

“We are deeply grateful for this partnership with First District Supervisor, Hilda Solis,” added Mayor Gonzales. “It is a testament to a long-standing commitment that she has with the City and residents of Azusa. A great number of our hardest-working families are essential workers and are either uninsured or underinsured and don’t normally seek access to health care, which is why increasing access to COVID-19 testing sites is a major priority.”

While you don't need symptoms to get tested, symptoms that may warrant a test include cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, fatigue, muscle ache, sore throat, headache, vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, recent loss of taste or smell, or confusion, particularly in older adults. If you have these symptoms, please contact your primary care provider. To learn more about county-wide testing sites, please visit <https://covid19.lacounty.gov/testing/> for details.

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