Mayor Bruce Harrell Announces New COVID Testing Site and Expanded Options

January 22, 2022 by Joaquin Uy

Testing site at SPU opens Wednesday; new rapid PCR tests available in three locations later this month

As the Omicron surge in COVID cases continues, this week, Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell announced new and improved testing options for Seattleites opening this month.

"As the Omicron variant continues to surge in our community and around the country so has demand for COVID-19 testing. We know that testing – along with vaccines, masks, and social distancing – is key to tackling this pandemic, which is why Seattle is launching a new testing site and swifter tests through our partnership with Curative," said Mayor Bruce Harrell.

A new Curative testing kiosk will launch tomorrow, Wednesday, January 19 at 315 W Bertona St, Seattle, WA 98119, and will be open Monday-Saturday, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. This site will be at Seattle Pacific University, as part of the Harrell administration’s partnership-focused approach to address the continuing pandemic.

Existing Curative sites at the Paramount Theater, Convention Center, and Garfield Playfield will be adding expanded capacity and a new type of rapid PCR test to deliver faster results later this month. Rapid PCR tests detect viral RNA which is a more direct and sensitive method of detection, leading to higher accuracy of test within 2 hours. Locations for new rapid PCR tests include:

- Paramount Theatre, 911 Pine St, Seattle, WA 98101; open 12:00 p.m. – 7 p.m.
- WA State Convention Center, 705 Pike Street, Seattle, WA 98101; open 7:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Garfield Playfield-Tennis Court, 501-653 25th Ave, Seattle, WA 98122; open 7:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

The City of Seattle strongly urges residents to only use testing locations verified by the City, County, or State and posted on their websites. Unlicensed COVID-19 testing locations and their procedures have not been verified by the state and have the potential to directly harm our community and our collective efforts to manage the pandemic. If residents have concerns about a COVID-19 testing facility, they can make a report with the Washington State Department of Health as well as the Washington State Attorney General.

The White House has announced that they are buying one billion at-home, rapid COVID-19 tests to be made available and mailed directly to Americans for free. Households can order tests online starting January 18 at COVIDtests.gov, and tests are expected to ship within 7-12 days of ordering. There will be a limit of four tests per residential address. Private insurance companies are also now required to cover the costs of up to eight at-home COVID-19 tests per covered individual per month.

Additional City testing sites include fixed locations with UW Medicine and Curative kiosks placed throughout the City. Appointments are strongly encouraged at all locations and sites. Due to an increase in testing volumes at all sites, longer wait times in line should be expected. Results may take up to 48-72 hours for non-rapid PCR tests. For more on any of the sites, please visit: www.seattle.gov/covid-19-testing.

UW Lab Locations:
- Aurora Drive Through
- Harborview
- Rainier Beach
- SODO Drive Through
- University District
- UW Medical Center Northwest
- West Seattle
Visit the UW website for more locations: https://www.uwmedicine.org/coronavirus/testing

Curative Locations:
- Paramount Theater
- Seattle Center
- Summit Public School: Atlas
- Don Armeni Boat Ramp / West Seattle
- Mount Baker Light Rail
- WA State Convention Center
- Garfield Playfield
- Seattle University
- Gas Works Park
- Lower Woodland Park
- Northgate
- Seattle Pacific University
Visit the Curative website for more locations: https://book.curative.com/search#9/47.5357/-122.3503