

Town of Hamilton and Town of Wenham COVID-19 testing FAQ's

Q: Who can get tested at this site?

A: Right now, we are limiting testing to Hamilton and Wenham residents or HWRSO members who have symptoms or who have been close contacts or fear they have been a close contact of a COVID positive person. Our towns are small, and though we have some funds to pay for uninsured residents who need a test, we are unable to afford to test everyone for every reason.

Stop The Spread Sites are available for free testing for anyone for any reason.

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread>

Q. What kind of test is this?

A. This is a PCR, self administered, lower nasal swab test. A staff member will instruct and observe as you swab your own nose using a short swab. You will also need to swab your child's own nose. Short swab tests more comfortable and still accurate. These are not the dreaded "brain ticklers"!

Q. Can my child get a test as well? Some places only test kids older than (age).

A. Yes. Your child can be tested if they meet the testing requirements listed above. If they are old enough to follow simple nasal swirl of a swab instructions, then they can do it themselves. Otherwise a healthcare professional: e.g., school nurse, EMS, etc. can do it for them.

Q. Will this testing be offered in January and beyond?

A. Right now, we are only able to commit to offering town based testing for December, as the funds being used (CARES Act) are being discontinued on Dec. 31. The Commonwealth is working on finding funding for this type of testing beyond Dec 31. We will let you know! In the meanwhile, know that there are multiple places to get tested. <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-testing>

Q. When should I get tested after an exposure?

A. You should get tested any time, if you develop symptoms. If you are in quarantine, it is good to be tested at the beginning of your quarantine, just in case you are already positive and don't know it. That way, we can enlarge the "circle of Quarantine" quickly, and help stop the spread. If you have no symptoms, you can get tested on Day 5 of your quarantine and if you are negative, get out of strict quarantine after day 7. See the new guidelines that just came out 12/7/2020 for more info: <https://www.mass.gov/guidance/information-and-guidance-for-persons-in-quarantine-due-to-covid-19>

Q. What is a "close contact"?

A. The Mass Dept of Public Health defines a close contact as someone who has been in contact with a COVID positive person 6ft or nearer for more than a total of 15 minutes over a 24 hr period. If you think you have been a close contact, then get tested and contact your local board of health.

Q. I am so confused about symptoms and when and where to test, can you give me some information please?

A. Yes! Here is a document the Public Health Nurse of Hamilton has put together to help you!

(Pat, please post my pdf to the town website and enter the link here)