

7/9/20: Letter updated with testing timeframes and hours of operation.

7/17/2020: Free testing has been suspended due to a backlog in getting test results. You are able to get tested at North Valley Hospital



P.O. Box 158 · Whitefish, MT 59937 · (406) 863-2400 · Fax: (406) 863-2419

June 19, 2020

Dear Whitefish Business Owners, Managers and Employees,

The City of Whitefish (City) remains committed to protecting the safety and well-being of our citizens, visitors and neighbors. As visitors return to enjoy our amenities and local businesses, we must be vigilant in our efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

On May 19th, Governor Bullock announced the State of Montana's support of communities impacted by tourism through employee surveillance testing for COVID-19. These testing sites provide a snapshot of our community and provide early detection of any potential outbreaks. In coordination with the Flathead Community Health Center, the City is happy to announce the opening of a community snapshot testing site in the Whitefish High School parking lot. Operating hours are tentatively scheduled for Thursdays 12:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Fridays 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Individuals will be processed on a first come, first serve basis. Testing is 100% voluntary and free. While the site is designed for our front-line workers who interact with the public frequently and have no symptoms of a respiratory illness, anyone interested may be tested. Individuals who have symptoms will be referred to their primary care provider or other resources for symptomatic testing.

What can you expect at the testing site? If you decide to be tested, you will drive up to the site and remain in your vehicle the entire time. You will be screened for symptoms of a respiratory illness and then proceed with processing the necessary paperwork (see attached form). Completing the form prior to arrival will help speed up the process, but forms will also be available on site. Once these steps are completed, you will be handed a testing kit with instructions on how to self-administer the test. The test is simple and should not be painful as you will place the nasal swab about ½ inch into your own nostril. Results take approximately 10 business days and you will be notified of your results. If a test comes back positive, you will receive a call from the Flathead Community Health Center and contact tracing will be performed by the Flathead City-County Health Department.

We all must do our part to prevent the spread of COVID-19 by staying clean, careful, and connected. Wash or sanitize hands frequently, practice social distancing, wear a mask while in public, and keep informed at www.whitefishcovidcares.com and www.cityofwhitefish.org. For updated information about the testing site visit Flathead Community Health Center's Facebook page, website (www.flatheadhealth.org/FCHC/), or call 406-751-8113. Thank you for your efforts and be well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dana M. Smith".

Dana M. Smith
City Manager