



COVID-19 Strategic Testing Plan for Routt County, August- September, 2020.

Testing is a vital part of Routt County's strategy to contain the spread of COVID-19, protect Routt County residents from the virus, preserve hospital capacity and reopen our county economy. The Routt County Public Health Department has worked to expand testing capacity in our county as have other providers in the community and has developed a strategic testing plan for the months of August and September dependent on sustainability of testing supply chain and capacity of the department. This document reflects only PCR testing and not antibody/serology testing nor antigen testing.

This strategic testing plan is an update to the plan originally created for Routt County Public Health for June and July. This updated plan takes into consideration that COVID-19 testing recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have changed since March and the availability of testing in Colorado has also increased. In addition, the turn-around time at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) laboratory where the Routt County Specimens are processed has increased.

This current plan updates the priorities for testing for Routt County sponsored community testing sites with the overriding goals of testing updated slightly to this new focus. This prioritization has been determined with the understanding that now many of the medical providers in Routt County have the ability to offer testing to Routt County citizens as well. In addition, the state of Colorado has created the Protect Our Neighbors metrics that include testing metrics. This new plan also addresses testing in terms of achieving these statewide metrics.

The June and July testing plan included providing testing services to employers in Routt County. This plan removes this focused testing. Employees of front-line service workers will be eligible to attend Routt County Community testing but onsite business testing will only be conducted in the event of an outbreak at a business location.

Goal #1: Continue to provide community testing for people living in Routt County for COVID-19 based on CDC testing guidelines updated July 22, 2020.

On July 17, 2020, the CDC guidelines were updated to reflect 5 priority groups for testing. CDPHE has aligned with these recommendations.

- Individuals with signs or symptoms consistent with COVID-19
- Asymptomatic individuals with recent known or suspected exposure to SARS-CoV-2 to control transmission

- Asymptomatic individuals without known or suspected exposure to SARS-CoV-2 for early identification in special settings
- Individuals being tested to determine resolution of infection (i.e., [test-based strategy for Discontinuation of Transmission-based Precautions](#), [HCP Return to Work](#), and [Discontinuation of Home Isolation](#))
- Individuals being tested for purposes of public health surveillance for SARS-CoV-2.

Per a Health Alert Network Notification published on July 31, 2020, CDPHE developed new guidance stating, “Except for rare situations, a test based strategy should not used to determine when to discontinue transmission based precautions or release a case from isolation.”

Based on the above recommendations, Routt County Public Health Community clinics will focus on the following populations:

- **Individuals with signs or symptoms consistent with COVID-19**
- **Asymptomatic individuals with recent known or suspected exposure to SARS-CoV-2 to control transmission**
- **Asymptomatic individuals without known or suspected exposure to SARS-CoV-2 for early identification for public health surveillance purposes**

Priority within the above categories will be given to:

- Routt County residents without health insurance.

Routt County residents who have health insurance that covers the cost of COVID-19 testing will be encouraged to use other medical clinics for their testing needs but will not be turned away.

Pre-screening tests for surgeries or testing needed for school attendance or for pre- post travel will be referred to other community providers for testing.

If a business or entity has an [outbreak](#) of COVID-19, Public Health will provide testing services as appropriate.

Routt County community testing partners:

The following Routt County clinical facilities provide COVID-19 tests:

Steamboat Emergency Center

Steamboat Springs Family Medicine

Yampa Valley Medical Associates

UCHealth Yampa Valley Medical Center

Northwest Colorado Health

Pediatrics of Steamboat Springs

Sleeping Bear Pediatrics

South Routt Medical Center

Goal #2: Use all available resources to increase testing for COVID-19 to meet Protect our Neighbors testing metrics.

Metric 5: County or region has the capacity to test (collect samples and testing partnerships) 15 people per 10,000 per day.

Routt County will continue to work with community partners to make sure that this metric is being met. Currently for August, Routt County Public Health in conjunction with its testing partnerships have tested 45 people per day. Using metric 5 above for a population of 26,000, our target for testing would be 39 people per day.

To continue this high threshold, Routt County Public Health will hold two community testing opportunities with the goal of testing approximately 150 people a week.

Metric 8: LPHA has documented strategies in place to offer testing, in conjunction with health care systems and other testing locations, to close contacts of outbreak-associated cases.

Routt County has stand up community testing at the Rodeo Grounds located in Steamboat Springs. This location has been used over the past few months for testing. The county has all supplies and hardware necessary to initiate testing within 24 hours should the need arise. We are currently discussing a strategy as well to provide testing at the Routt County Public Health clinic daily as needed as well once a clinic is established.