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June 10, 2020- Key COVID-19 Updates for the Whitewater Community

Key Updates

Community Testing

- Approval for a community testing site in Elkhorn is still pending National Guard confirmation.
- Aurora Burlington continues to offer drive-through testing for individuals that are symptomatic, find more [information on their website - https://www.advocateaurorahealth.org/coronavirus-disease-2019/community-testing](https://www.advocateaurorahealth.org/coronavirus-disease-2019/community-testing).
- Mercyhealth Walworth offers a variety of care options including virtual visits for those that are symptomatic and antibody testing. [Find more information on their website - https://mercyhealthsystem.org/alert/coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/](https://mercyhealthsystem.org/alert/coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/).

Question and Answer from DHS on Antibody Testing

Are serology (antibody) test results reportable?

Yes, but only positive laboratory test results from a serologic test (antibody test) must be reported. Negative results do not need to be reported. Patients being tested using a serologic test (antibody test) do not need to be reported until positive test results are received.

What is the benefit of antibody testing?

Antibody testing can be beneficial in several ways:

- Data from antibody testing can help researchers build greater knowledge of COVID-19, including understanding how many people have been infected, what the prevalence is within communities, and how the virus spreads, among other research questions.
- Antibody testing can support an experimental treatment for individuals who are ill with COVID-19, known as “convalescent plasma therapy.” People who are identified as having antibodies to COVID-19 can donate plasma, which is being studied as a treatment for people with current COVID-19 infection.
- Antibody testing can also be used by scientists to assess the response of the body to vaccines as they are being developed.

Can antibody testing be used to inform workplace decisions, such as who can safely return to work or who does or does not need to use personal protective equipment?

Antibody testing should not be used to inform workplace decisions, including return-to-work or personal protective equipment decisions. Antibody testing can only determine whether

antibodies are present in an individual's blood. We don't know yet whether having antibodies means that a person is immune to or protected from future COVID-19 infection.