PRESS RELEASE

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LA County Launches Holiday COVID-19 Home Test Collection Pilot

LA County begins home test collection program to reduce COVID-19 spread during the holidays

LOS ANGELES — LA County launched a new COVID-19 home test collection program today, which allows certain County residents to do free testing from the comfort of their own homes.

The home test collection program will run from December 1, 2020 through January 15, 2021. It aims to help address the current surge in demand for testing and reduce the spread of COVID-19 during the holiday season when people may risk exposure. Individuals can have testing kits mailed to their home if they:

- Have COVID-19 symptoms; or
- Were recently in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 or is suspected of having it; or
- Are a senior or person with disabilities who feel they were exposed to COVID-19, but are unable to go to a testing site.

"As the surge in cases and hospitalizations continues, LA County is trying innovative ways to meet the testing demand and stem the community spread of the virus," said Dr. Clemens Hong, who oversees COVID-19 testing for LA County under the Department of Health Services.

"We are doing everything we can to make sure testing is available to all," Hong said. "This allows us to reach even more people – and they don't have to risk exposing others by leaving their homes. It's an important step for combatting the virus in LA County."

The week before Thanksgiving, almost half a million tests were performed in LA County at over 180 community testing sites, hospitals, clinics, and other facilities.

The temporary program will use Picture COVID-19, an FDA-approved home collection test developed by Fulgent Genetics, Inc. For information on how to register, individuals should go to the county COVID-19 testing site. If they qualify, Fulgent Genetics will ship a collection kit to their home within two days.

Individuals taking the test at home should follow the directions to collect the sample and take it to a FedEx drop box the same day or have someone take it to a drop box on their behalf. Individuals will receive the results by e-mail within two days. While waiting for the testing kit and the results, individuals should continue following public health guidance on staying home and avoiding contact with others.

The **COVID-19 Home Test Collection Pilot** launch comes after Thanksgiving weekend, when some may have been exposed to COVID-19 while celebrating or shopping. A modified safer-at-home order took effect Monday, Nov. 30 that advises people to stay at home as much as possible and places new restrictions on gatherings and businesses.

To learn more about COVID-19 testing in LA County, visit covid19.lacounty.gov/testing.

About DHS

The Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (DHS) is the second largest municipal health system in the nation. Through its integrated system of 27 health centers and four hospitals - and expanded network of community partner clinics – DHS annually provides direct care for over 600,000 unique patients, employs over 23,000 staff, and has an annual budget of over $6 billion. For additional information regarding DHS please visit www.dhs.lacounty.gov.

About Fulgent Genetics

Since March 2020, Fulgent Genetics has commercially launched several tests for the detection of COVID-19. The company has received Emergency Use Authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the RT-PCR-based tests for COVID-19 detection, including home collection testing.