



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

**COVID TESTING POP-UP SITE ESTABLISHED AT
24TH & MISSION TO HELP COMBAT SURGE IN THE
CITY'S MOST IMPACTED COMMUNITY DURING THIS
HOLIDAY SEASON**

Beginning Wednesday, December 23rd, the City will offer free, low barrier testing at 24th and Mission Street Transit Hub to support the Latino community, essential workers and others as positivity cases continue to climb

San Francisco, CA -- Mayor London N. Breed, Director of Public Health Dr. Grant Colfax, and the Latino Task Force today announced a holiday testing pop-up site to be located at the 24th and Mission Street transit hub to serve the Latino community and essential workers during a massive surge of COVID-19 cases.

The COVID-19 testing site is at one of San Francisco's busiest transit hubs in the heart of the Mission District. The drop-in only site will increase access to low barrier testing in a neighborhood with a population disproportionately impacted by the virus.

Across the nation we are facing a massive surge of infections that began in November. This December holiday we urge families to keep each other safe by not gathering outside of their households to lower the risk of infection and save lives. It is still important to stay connected and you can do that by reaching out to your friends and colleagues over the next few weeks with a video chat, a text or sharing old photos through phone apps or social media; a brief connection can mean the world.

"We need to ensure that our resources are allocated equitably and effectively in order to slow the spread of this virus," said Mayor Breed. "By standing up a testing site at 24th and Mission streets that is easily accessible, we are better serving the Latino community and our essential workers, who have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 health pandemic. By meeting people where they are with critical resources like testing, we can better protect the health of all of our communities during this current surge, which will help us safely reopen our City."

The city's COVID Command Center and the Department of Public Health (DPH), in partnership with the Latino Task Force, can test approximately 700 people per day at the pop-up testing site, made possible by reallocating some testing resources from the CityTestSF Embarcadero site. The 24th and Mission Street site will offer free, low barrier testing with multilingual staff in



Spanish, Chinese and English. No appointments are needed, and results will be reported within 24 to 48 hours.

“Expanding low barrier testing resources in communities with high-prevalence of the virus like the Mission neighborhood is a top priority,” said Dr. Grant Colfax, Director of Health. “Communities of color, particularly the Latino community, and essential workers continue to shoulder a disproportionate burden of COVID 19. Today’s announcement plays an important role in addressing these ongoing disparities and supporting the populations most at risk.”

The new 24th and Mission Street testing site is located in a central transit hub to help the City reach more people in the community who are disproportionately impacted by the spread of COVID-19, including the Latino community, who have been carrying one of the highest levels of infection with a new case positivity rate of 112.68 per 10,000 residents compared to a citywide average of 72.17. In addition, while the Latino community makes up 15 percent of the City’s population, as of December 19, 2020, the community made up 44 percent of the City’s positive COVID-19 cases.

“We have been on the frontlines of this battle and have seen the painful disparities that have existed due to a legacy of inequalities and policies that have negatively impacted our community,” said Jon Jacobo, Health Committee Chair with the Latino Task Force. “We are appreciative that the City is moving to partner with us and uphold our Test to Community Care model for the people who have been hit the hardest.”

“We, the Latino Task Force, are grateful for Mayor London Breed’s commitment to partner on new testing efforts, and for putting the trust in our community and ensuring her administration truly collaborates with the partners best positioned to combat the accelerated spread of Covid-19,” said Valerie Tulier-Laiwa, Latino Task Force Coordinator. “The location will provide low barrier testing resources to those who are most at risk for infection.”

The 24th & Mission Street Testing Site is open from 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on:

Wednesday, December 23rd and Thursday, December 24th

The Latino Task Force has partnered with the City’s COVID Command Center and the Department of Public Health to bring testing and resources to the LTF Resource Hub since July. Since the establishment of the LTF Resource Hub, more than 7,000 people have been tested, more than 7,000 per week have received food assistance and more than 5,500 people have received other support services.

The effort is part of the City’s strategic testing program that identifies, tracks and addresses the prevalence of COVID in our communities in order to properly allocate resources and slow the spread of the virus. San Francisco tests more 8,000 people per day, more per capita than any other city in the nation. COVID-19 testing is available for free to anyone who lives in San Francisco with symptoms or who has been exposed or anyone who leaves their home to work in San Francisco (with or without symptoms), especially essential workers and, those who are

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uninsured or have barriers to healthcare. We encourage anyone with health insurance to contact their provider for a test appointment. City-run sites offer testing access to prevent the spread of the infection due to exposure or the display of symptoms. San Francisco is currently experiencing a surge of COVID-19 cases and testing resources must be available for those who are sick, who have been exposed to the virus or are essential workers.

For more information visit sf.gov/gettestedsf.

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