

TOWN OF VERNON



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TOWN OF VERNON AND PRIORITY URGENT CARE OFFER COVID-19 ANTIBODY TESTING

Expanded Testing Available Regardless of Insurance or Ability to Pay

Vernon, CT – The Town of Vernon and Priority Urgent Care have announced that individuals seeking COVID-19 testing will have the option to be screened for the antibody to determine prior exposure to the virus. The antibody testing is performed as a blood draw and results are typically available within 48 hours.

All COVID-19 testing is available to anyone regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. Testing sites and locations are as follows:

Every Tuesday **St. Bernard's Church | 25 St. Bernard's Terrace**

Drive-Thru Testing Only 9:00 am to 10:00 am

Walk-Up Testing Only 10:30 am to 11:30 am

Every Thursday **Vernon Senior Center | 135 Bolton Road**

Drive-Thru Testing Only 9:00 am to 11:00 am

Pre-screening is strongly encouraged to expedite the testing process and can be done through telemedicine evaluation by contacting Priority Urgent Care at (860) 454-0678 or www.priorityuc.com.

"Since May, the Town of Vernon has offered weekly COVID-19 testing" said Vernon Mayor Daniel A. Champagne. "Priority Urgent Care has been a valuable partner to the Town as we implement innovative solutions that increase access, reduce barriers and make testing more efficient and convenient."

"Antibody testing plays an important role in understanding the spread of the disease and assists us in identifying those who have been infected by COVID-19 in the past few months" said Dr. Daksh Rampal, MD, Medical Director and Priority Urgent Care co-founder. "Through a blood draw, we are able to detect the presence of antibodies which means there may now be some level of immunity to the virus. This will become very useful information when and if a vaccine becomes available. By following the CDC's guidance, employing social distancing measures and now with the added benefit of antibody testing, we can help stop the spread of COVID-19 more effectively and safely move our communities forward together."

"In our fight against COVID-19, we need to be armed with every available tool. Antibody testing helps us learn more about the virus and is a part of the Town's comprehensive response and recovery plan" said Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator. "Throughout this pandemic, our coordinated approach has assisted residents by providing sustainable solutions that safeguard public health and welfare. We will continue to advocate for our community in ways that are safe, effective, and responsible."

For more information about antibody testing, please visit the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/resources/antibody-tests-guidelines.html>.

About the Town of Vernon

The Town of Vernon is a celebrated place to live, work and visit. From its beautiful parks and lakes, to its vast trails and historic homes and buildings, Vernon is a resilient and thriving community that promotes the health and well-being of its residents and values the natural environment. With a resident population of approximately 30,000 and occupying 18.03 square miles, Vernon combines a balanced appreciation of history, and a strong economic base for growth, both residential and commercial. Located 15 minutes east of the Connecticut capitol of Hartford, and 25 miles from the City of Springfield, Massachusetts, the Town of Vernon is strategically located in "New England's Knowledge Corridor" with close proximity to some of the top colleges and universities in the county.

Recently designated as a certified Sustainable Community, the Town of Vernon offers a wide range of benefits and services to its residents. The Town of Vernon is a full-service municipality that practices a management philosophy of continuous quality improvement. To learn more about the Town of Vernon, please call (860) 870-3670 or visit www.vernon-ct.gov.

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