MEDIA RELEASE

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To: All Media
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For Immediate Release

“LaSalle County Health Department Addresses Some Common Questions as they have Moved to Online Scheduling for COVID-19 Tests”

Ottawa, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department recently moved to scheduling ALL COVID-19 tests online. Overall, the transition to online scheduling has been smooth and well received, as the main goal was to reduce the wait time individuals experienced when calling into the department to schedule an appointment. However, there are some clarifications and common questions we have been receiving and would like to address:

1) **Testing children under 3 years old.** We request the presence of two accompanying adults for the safety of the child and the most accurate results.

2) **Walk-ins are no longer accepted.** You will be directed to make an appointment online.

3) **Please cancel your appointment if no longer needed.** This allows the appointment to be opened back up for someone else who needs it. To cancel, please look at the email confirmation you received when scheduling your appointment. There are directions at the bottom of the email if you need to cancel. For individuals who do not have email, please call 815-433-3366.

4) **Please make sure to input your Cell Phone Number, Email, and Date of Birth correctly.** This information is crucial for receiving your results.

The three options of COVID testing we offer are as follows. Please read the guidelines carefully before you schedule.

**Abbott BinaxNOW (Rapid Antigen) test – No Cost**

- This test is meant for symptomatic individuals. Please note if you are currently asymptomatic or are asymptomatic upon arrival, you will be directed to complete either the send out PCR (Free) or Rapid Molecular Test ($41). The send out PCR results will be emailed within 3-5 days from the date the lab receives the sample to the email you provided. The Rapid Molecular Test results will be available within 15-20 minutes.
Send Out PCR test – No Cost

➢ If you schedule a send out PCR, you will receive an email from the Midwest Coordination Center (MCC) and YOU MUST follow the instructions to COMPLETE your online HIPAA & Testing Consents PRIOR to your appointment.
➢ The email from the Midwest Coordination Center (MCC) will come from testedandprotected.org. If you do not receive an email, please check your spam folder.
➢ The send out PCR results will be emailed within 3-5 days from the date the lab receives the sample to the email you provided.
➢ ANY Send out PCR tests collected on Friday, CANNOT BE SHIPPED OUT (the lab will not allow us to ship on Fridays) until the following Monday. Please take this into consideration when scheduling a testing appointment.

Abbott IDNOW Rapid Molecular/NAAT test -- $41 Fee

➢ This $41 fee MUST be paid ahead of your scheduled appointment. If it is not, you will not be able to be tested using that method and a send out PCR will be performed instead.

You can pay at: https://www.govpaynow.com/gps/user/plc/a0008c and select COVID Testing $41.

➢ The Rapid Molecular Test results will be available within 15-20 minutes.

Schedule a COVID-19 testing appointment: https://hipaa.jotform.com/220026540796151. For additional questions, please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366.

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