

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, June 19, 2020

Niagara Health opening third Assessment Centre in Welland

Niagara's third COVID-19 Assessment Centre, located at Niagara Health's Welland Site, will open on Monday, June 22.

"Since accepting self-referrals, we have seen an increase in people coming for testing at our Assessment Centres," said Derek McNally, Executive Vice-President, Clinical Services and Chief Nursing Executive. "Opening the Welland Assessment Centre will increase access to testing and help us better meet the needs of our community. The quickest and most efficient way to be tested is to call ahead and receive an appointment."

Those wishing to be tested are encouraged to call **905-378-4647 ext. 42819 (4-CV19)**. Walk-ins are accepted until 4:30 p.m. on the days of operation.

Since May 25, nearly 4,000 patients have self-referred for testing, including more than 1,000 people since Monday of this week. In total, the Assessment Centres have conducted almost 17,000 tests since opening in March.

Information about Niagara's Three Assessment Centres

As of Monday, June 22, the **Welland Assessment Centre** will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday and is located in the auditorium of the Welland Site at 65 Third Street. The dedicated parking spots can be accessed from MacLean Place and Plymouth Road.

The **St. Catharines Assessment Centre** is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Sunday and is located behind the Walker Family Cancer Centre at the rear of the St. Catharines Site at 1200 Fourth Ave. The centre also has a drive-through service. People eligible for this service will be notified at booking.

The **Niagara Falls Assessment Centre** is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Sunday and is located in the Allied Health building behind the Greater Niagara General Site at 5673 North Street in Niagara Falls. There is no access to the Allied Health building from the hospital.

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Getting Tested for COVID-19

Registration will be done over the phone by calling **905-378-4647 ext. 42819 (4-CV19)**.

Walk-ins are accepted at the Assessment Centres until 4:30 p.m. on the days of operation; however, those without an appointment will need to wait in their vehicles while registration and administrative procedures are completed.

Calling ahead is the quickest and most efficient way to be tested for COVID-19.

For safety reasons, please do not come to the main entrance of the hospital or the Emergency Department for testing. Each Assessment Centre has its own entrance.

PLEASE NOTE: The Assessment Centres will be closed on Canada Day, Wednesday July 1.