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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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El Paso, Texas

City Updates Drive-Thru Guidelines, Operating Hours to Increase COVID-19 Specimen Collection in El Paso

In effort to increase the number of specimens collected and tested for COVID-19, the City of El Paso Department of Public Health has updated the qualifications needed to access the service.

The following criteria will be used to identify those who qualify for specimen collection:

- First Responders and Health Care Workers with symptoms
- Persons 65 y/o or older with symptoms
- Persons any age, with symptoms **and** underlying medical conditions
- Individuals evaluated by their medical provider and provided with a lab order through Quest Diagnostics

Additionally, specimens will now be collected Monday through Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A picture ID or any other form of identification is required to confirm appointment. Patients who qualify may call (915) 212-0783 to make an appointment. The patient's privacy will be maintained and the patient will not be asked for their citizenship or immigration status.

Qualifying individuals must not take any fever reducing medications prior to the appointment. A physician's order or insurance is not required; however, staff may still ask for orders and insurance as a part of the process. If testing criteria is not met, the appointment and/or specimen collection at the site will be denied.

For further details please see the attached advisory. Additional information is available at EPStrong.org.

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