

DHEC continuing free testing in Seneca

Physician recommends testing even for those with no symptoms

BY RILEY MORNINGSTAR
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SENECA — The state health department is set to provide free COVID-19 testing in Oconee County again on Thursday.

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control will be at the Seneca Health Department at 609 N. Townville St. from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Testing is open to anyone regardless of symptoms and doesn't require an appointment or doctor's not, though registration is required. Those looking to be tested can preregister at scdhec.gov/gettested. Results can be expected to come back within 72 hours.

"Testing for COVID-19 is essential, because it helps identify people who are infected with the virus, whether or not they have symptoms, so they can isolate themselves and keep those around them from becoming infected, especially at-risk individuals who can develop life-threatening illness if they contract the virus," DHEC said in a statement. "Identifying those with COVID-19 who have symptoms helps ensure they receive the medical treatment they need."

DOCTORS RECOMMEND ROUTINE TESTING

Over the weekend,

DHEC physician Dr. Brannon Traxler said it was important for



Traxler

anyone who would like to be tested for COVID-19 to get tested. She recommended routine testing for those unable to socially distance or wear a mask.

"If you are out and about in the community or around others, participating in group events, or not able to socially distance or wear a mask, we recommend that you receive routine testing once a month or sooner if someone you've been around tests positive or if you develop symptoms," Traxler said.

Even for those with no symptoms or feeling mild ones, Traxler said testing is available throughout the state.

"While many people with COVID-19 have mild or no symptoms, it is still possible that they could be infected and pass the disease to friends, family and loved ones," she said. "Meanwhile, others don't know that they've been in close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with someone with confirmed COVID-19. Therefore, we continue to provide no out-of-pocket costs community testing events open to anyone who would like to be tested."

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