

## First Set of Results for COVID-19 Blood Test



### Department of Public Health and Environment FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## First Set of Results for COVID-19 Blood Test

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(March 24, 2020) -- San Miguel County, CO -- San Miguel County Department of Public Health and Environment today received the results for the first group of those who had the COVID-19 ELISA blood test.

The group of 645, first responders and their families, all tested negative. Two parties had a mild signal change, although not enough to change the negative test results. In some cases, this can indicate early seroconversion. Public Health has spoken directly to these two individuals.

“Although the results did not come back as positive, we have asked them to self-quarantine for 14 days. Additionally, we have requested them to take the PCR nasal swab to compare the two tests,” Grace Franklin, Director of Public Health said.

Negative blood test results indicate that a person has not had exposure to the virus and therefore remains susceptible to becoming infected. This test should be repeated after 14 days to detect any changes in immune status.

Meanwhile, dozens of emergency operations personnel continue to work the logistics, equipment, legal, and manpower needed to launch the first phase of three of the county-wide COVID-19 blood test in partnership with UBI.

Phase 1 is a pre-selected small group of teachers and their families. That phase should start later this week.

“We are excited to offer this unique testing opportunity to our residents. We are working out the final legal issues with UBI to be able to move forward,” Mike Bordogna, County Manager said.

Dr. Sharon Grundy, County Medical Officer said, “We know people want to get tested, but I want to ensure everyone, there’s no reason to rush. We have shelter in place orders and people practicing social distancing. We will get folks tested, but those measures at the end of the day are the most critical.”

After Phase 1 testing, staff will take a day to work out any issues with the process before beginning Phase 2 which will be for the East End County residents 60 years of age and older.

“We are taking into consideration the unique needs for our seniors by providing a selected time which will also allow some high-risk individuals to come get tested before the rest of the community,” Dr. Grundy said.

Phase 3 will begin the following day and include the rest of the East End county community, one neighborhood at a time.

“We will have an online registration system and will encourage people to register online on our county webpage ([sanmiguelcountyco.gov/coronavirus](https://www.sanmiguelcountyco.gov/coronavirus)) to offer convenience and minimize the time people will be at the testing site,” Franklin said. Details will be announced when online registration is available. The test is free and voluntary and will be held at the Telluride Intermediate School. A follow-up test 14-16 days later is important to detect changes in a person’s antibodies. This test is not recommended for children 8 years old and younger.

Testing for the West End of the county will begin next month.

Meanwhile, Public Health has still not received notification from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment on the 100 swab tests they conducted March 17th. Those results will be announced when they are learned after notification of appropriate individuals is completed.

For up to date coronavirus information visit: <https://www.sanmiguelcountyco.gov/coronavirus>

## ***COVID-19 Updates***

***Town of Telluride extends closure of all Town buildings and facilities through April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. These closures follow the San Miguel County Public Health Order.***

***The Town will continue to provide essential town services to the community, including public safety, water utilities and emergency response.***

**Construction Sites** Residential and Commercial sites must be in compliance with Social Distancing Requirements and in compliance with the San Miguel County Order #2020-03

**Parking** The Town of Telluride will temporarily suspend enforcement of pay to park regulations.

**Trash and Recycling** Please note that Bruin Waste Management has instituted temporary, Coronavirus-driven changes to their recycling rules.

“To protect the safety of their employees, Bruin Waste is not currently able to sort recycling material at their facility and is asking customers to bag their recycling material. Effective immediately, please bag all recycling material for curbside pickup. Bruin will continue to pick up on their normal schedule. If you have questions, please contact Bruin directly

**Sales and Use Tax** The Town of Telluride has closely been monitoring COVID-19 and working to address concerns of our employees, residents, and businesses proactively. As the situation develops and we learn more during this crisis, we are continuing to evaluate information to maintain fluidity and staying dynamic. Currently, the Town of Telluride is under consideration of sales tax and use tax due dates, as well as penalty and interest calculations, and we are receptive to the needs of the community to offer leniency. We will be working with customers on an individual basis.

**Property Tax** San Miguel County Treasurer issued the following statement regarding Property Tax Late Payment/Delinquent Interest Policy on March 23, 2020. “Many taxpayers who had planned on paying their taxes in full by April 30<sup>th</sup> may find it difficult to do so now due to income loss during the COVID-19 virus emergency. From now until April 20<sup>th</sup>, tax payers may make a delinquent first half property tax payment (originally due March 2<sup>nd</sup>) without interest. The second half payment will be due June 15<sup>th</sup>”

## **CURRENT NEWS RELEASE**

(March 22, 2020 5:40 PM) -- San Miguel County, CO – San Miguel County Public Health Officials, working with dozens of Emergency Operations personnel, will begin the new county-wide COVID-19 blood test initiative this week. [Read On...](#)

To sign up for Coronavirus Alerts from San Miguel Public Health Officials go to:

<https://www.sanmiguelcountyco.gov/list.aspx>

To sign up for San Miguel County Code Red go to:

<https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/BF7ED953CC69>

## **COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER CURRENTLY IN EFFECT**

- [Public Health Agency Order #2020-03 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Noticias de Coronavirus para el condado de San Miguel](#) - Grabación de video del Centro Médico Telluride

**Colorado Health Emergency Line for the Public (COHELP) is activated and can provide callers with the latest public health information regarding COVID-19.**

**COHELP can be reached at 1-877-462-2911 or 303-389-1687.**



## COVID-19 TESTING PROCEDURE

**PHASE 1:** Thursday, March 26 and Friday, March 27

A pre-selected group of teachers including their families will be tested Thursday and Friday.

**PHASE 2:** Saturday, March 28, 9 am – 5pm for East County **SENIORS ONLY**  
(60 yr. old and above)

**PHASE 3:** Sunday, March 29 – Tuesday, March 31, 9am – 5pm East County general population. West End county residents will receive specific instructions about the testing location and procedures in the coming days.

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR COUNTY RESIDENTS**

Every resident who is interested in participating in this COVID-19 testing in East County should do the following:

1) Register for CodeRED alerts if you have not already. Go to [sanmiguelcounty.gov/coronavirus](https://sanmiguelcounty.gov/coronavirus) and click the [CodeRED](#) icon.

2) Pre-register online for the blood test at [c19SMC.com](https://c19SMC.com)

You will be asked to fill out consent forms, and be able to find information about the blood test.

If you are unable to pre-register, volunteers on site will direct you how to register using your cellphone

– or –

Volunteers will on-site will assist you with filling out paper registration forms.

3) Testing will begin in East Telluride and move west through the eastern portion of the county, neighborhood by neighborhood. We cannot advise of an exact window of time.

4) You will be notified via CodeRED approximately 24 hours before you are to report for your blood test at the Telluride Intermediate School at 717 West Colorado Avenue in Telluride. We will also announce the same message on KOTO.

5) Please remember to bring some sort of proof of residence (ID NOT necessary) such as a cable, electric bill, lease, etc.

6) We encourage you to drive (with members of your household only) for shelter and logistical reasons.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- “East County” is the Telluride Fire Protection District including Telluride, Mountain Village, Ophir, Sawpit, Placerville, Wilson Mesa, Hastings Mesa, Iron Springs Mesa and (west on Highway 145 to mm 90 and east on Hwy 145 to mm 13 (top of Dallas Divide). “West End County” is Specie Mesa, Wright’s Mesa, Norwood and the communities west of Norwood in San Miguel County.
- “CodeRED” is a targeted alert system tied to your residence that issues notifications are issued via text message, email or an automated phone call to cell phone or landline.
- The blood test is free and voluntary.
- The test is not recommended for children 8 years-old and younger.
- The test is not recommended for those home-bound.
- We will **NOT** accept any “appointments.” Please do **NOT** call, email, text dispatch, your medical provider or anyone else to ask for one.
- You will be asked to return in 14 – 16 days for your second blood test. The process will be similar.

If you still have questions or need assistance,  
go to [sanmiguelcountyco.gov/coronavirus](https://sanmiguelcountyco.gov/coronavirus) ,  
call our hotline 970-728-3844 or  
email [questions@sanmiguelcountyco.gov](mailto:questions@sanmiguelcountyco.gov)