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Emmons County Public Health



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Kidder County District Health Unit

News Release

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Attached Artwork:

None

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Emmons County Public Health, Kidder County District Health Unit Recommend Getting Tested for COVID-19 This Week for Thanksgiving, Versus Waiting

[LINTON, ND] – Emmons County Public Health (ECPH) and Kidder County District Health Unit (KCDHU) are encouraging you to get tested for COVID-19 this week to help determine if you should travel to, or host, a Thanksgiving event.

“Due to the time it may take to receive COVID-19 test results, getting tested this week versus next week is important to help you in your holiday decisions,” said ECPH Executive Officer Bev Voller. “If you are tested this week, that should ensure that you will have results back in time to help make an informed decision for your family.”

“Please remember, though, that a negative test result from this week is only a point in time result. The possibility exists you may get infected with COVID-19 between your test date and the day you receive your results,” said KCDHU Administrator Janel Brousseau. “We hope everyone can enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday, but we want you to be as safe as possible.”

Both health units provide COVID-19 testing events by appointment only. KCDHU conducts its testing event on Thursdays, beginning at 3 p.m. and completing with the final scheduled appointment. ECPH’s days of testing may vary depending on when appointments can be grouped to make logistics easier for transport to the State Lab in Bismarck. ECPH requests that only asymptomatic individuals call for testing. Individuals with COVID-19 symptoms are asked to call the clinic in Linton to make a COVID-19 test appointment. Individuals who have not scheduled an appointment, are not eligible to receive a COVID-19 test.

The Center for Disease Control has provided a number of [tips and suggestions for ways to make Thanksgiving safer](#):

- Wear a mask, with two or more layers, over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin. Make sure the mask fits snugly against the sides of your face.
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others who do not live with you.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Keep hand sanitizer, with at least 60% alcohol, with you and use it when you are unable to wash your hands.

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- Bring your own food, drinks, plates, cups and utensils to an event.
- Wear a mask and [safely store your mask](#) while eating and drinking.
- Use single-use options, like salad dressing and condiment packets, and disposable items like food containers, plates and utensils.
- Limit the number of guests at a gathering.
- Have conversations with guests ahead of time to set expectations for celebrating together.

Consider other Thanksgiving activities:

- Schedule a time to share a meal together virtually.
- Watch Thanksgiving Day parades, sports and movies at home.
- Shop online sales the day after Thanksgiving and days leading up to the winter holidays.
- Use contactless services for purchased items, like curbside pick-up.
- Safely prepare traditional dishes and deliver them to family and neighbors in a way that does not involve contact with others (for example, leave them on the porch).

For ongoing response efforts to the COVID-19 pandemic, the North Dakota Department of Health has established a COVID-19 Hotline to help answer your questions. You may call 1-866-207-2880, Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with questions. Please note that individuals seeking specific medical advice should contact their healthcare provider.

Both health units provide a variety of COVID-19 information through their respective Facebook page. You can connect with ECPH at www.facebook.com/ECPH.gov or call (701) 254-4027. KCDHU can be reached through Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/KCDHU> or by calling (701) 475-2582. For more info about COVID-19, visit the [ND Department of Health website](#), NDResponse.gov, or [CDC website](#).

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