



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COVID-19 Testing Increasing in Western Wisconsin with National Guard Assistance

LOCATION: Local public health departments in Western Wisconsin have requested assistance from the Wisconsin National Guard (WING) to scale up COVID-19 testing.

In our area, Ashland County Public Health and Bad River Band of Lake Superior, a member of the Western Wisconsin Public Health Readiness Consortium, are partnering to host a community COVID-19 specimen collection site in **Ashland on Thursday May 7th from 11:00am to 7:00pm.**

Anyone 5 years and older with any current symptoms of:

Fever (temperature greater than 100.4)	Subjective Reports of Fever
Cough	Shortness of breath or difficult breathing
Sore Throat	Headache
Chills or Rigors (repetitive shaking chills)	Myalgia (muscle aches)
Loss of taste	Loss of smell
Fatigue	Vomiting
Nausea	Diarrhea

Is eligible to be tested at this site.

Testing through the collection site will be free of cost. If testing kits run out before the end of the event, we will update our Facebook page. Please take a look at our Facebook page before you leave home to ensure kits are still available. <https://www.facebook.com/AshlandCountyHealthHumanServicesPublicHealth/> This event is open to all community members within the Red Cliff and Bad River Tribes as well as Ashland, Bayfield, and Iron Counties. You must be a resident of Wisconsin or work in Wisconsin to be eligible for testing.

The collection site will be located in the **Lake Superior Primary/Lake Superior Elementary School driveway, 1101 Binsfield Road, Ashland. Please approach the school via Binsfield Road by entering from Highway 13. The entrance will be via the East side of the driveway only. Traffic exiting the testing site will travel West away from the school towards Beaser Ave.**

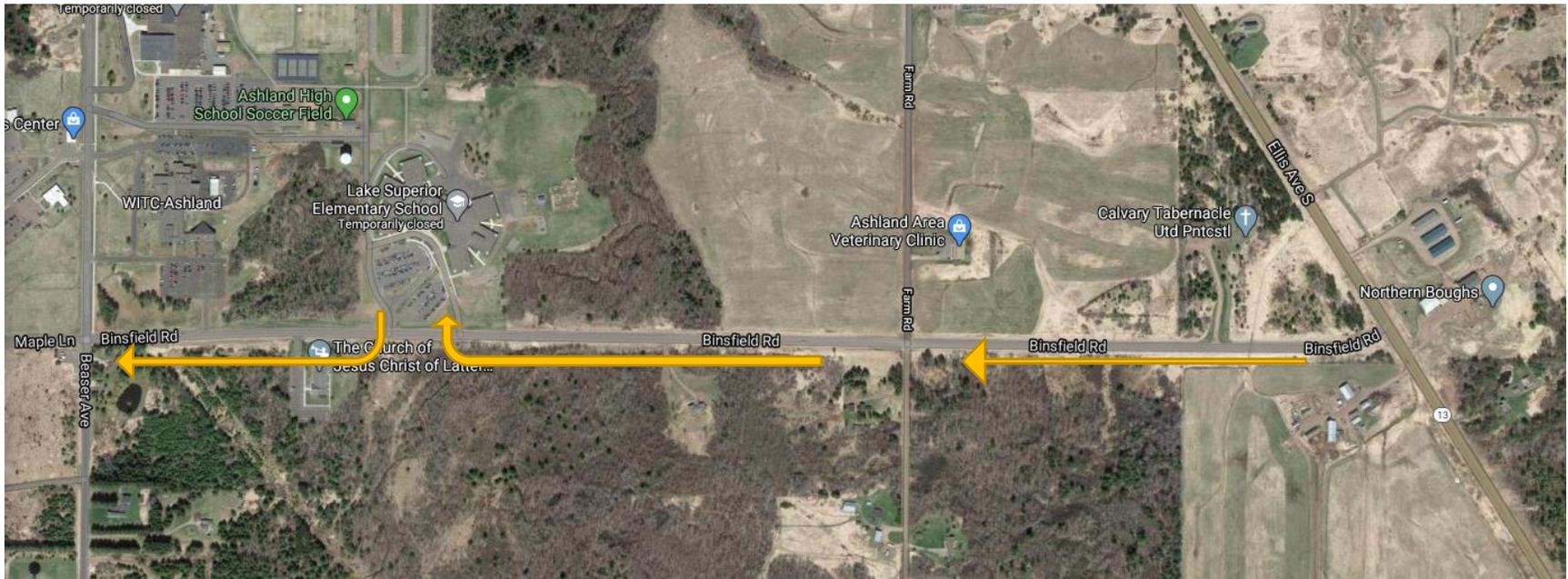
We have two goals with this event. 1. Providing our communities with mass testing, allowing local healthcare providers more time to increase their testing capacity. 2. This event will give Public Health better insight into how much COVID-19 is in our communities. Following this event, we will continue to work closely with our local healthcare providers to continue building their capacity to meet patient demand.

There are plans for additional testing sites throughout the Western Region of Wisconsin in early May. Additional testing sites will be added to the Western WI Public Health Readiness Consortium <http://wwphrc.org/covid-19-community-testing/>.

Pam Feustel and Elizabeth Szot stated in agreement, "If we get positive cases through this event, we will be able to isolate those people and trace their contacts to stop further spread in our communities. If there aren't many positive cases as a result of this event, we can use that data to explore reopening activities. A lack of positive cases as a result of this event doesn't mean we're in the clear- it means we are doing a great job of limiting contacts and need to keep social distancing."

Following testing, people should return straight home and isolate themselves until their symptoms end. This means do not go to work or out in the community. Separate yourself from other people in your home to the best of your ability. Wash your hands often and clean/disinfect surfaces routinely. Public Health will contact individuals with their test results as they become available.

If you are experiencing symptoms at this time please contact your primary care provider. If there are questions about the event, please call 211 for non-WI area code please use this number 1-877-947-2211, Ashland County Public Health at 715-682-7028 or Bad River Health and Wellness at 715-682-7133.



Enter from Ellis Ave/Highway 13 onto Binsfield Road.

Travel WEST on Binsfield Road to the first entrance for the Lake Superior Elementary School.

Exit from the Western side of the Lake Superior Elementary School driveway.

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