TESTING SITES

- FEMA processing will continue until May 30. Criteria has been changed so patients with underlying medical conditions (no age restrictions) that report symptoms are eligible to be tested through the FEMA program without a physician’s order. Patients are no longer required to get temperatures checked at the testing site.

- For testing orders at Quest, use the COVID-19 cpt code 39448. There is no collection for Quest on Saturdays.

- Testing site is now using both NP and nasal swabs.

Department of Health Site

- Hours: Monday – Saturday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- For appointments, call 212-0783.
- HCWs with symptoms do not need an order form or insurance. Bring hospital or physician ID only. Anyone without symptoms needs a Quest order form. Fever is no longer necessary for testing. Note: Patients should not take anti-pyretic meds before getting tested.
- For more information, visit http://www.epstrong.org/testing.php.

NE Private Site

- Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Contact: 217-1240 or 1-888-776-5252
- Address: 4659 Cohen Drive, Suite A
- Cost: Tests are $165. No order forms are needed. Patients should be prepared to pay cash, but the site may be able to bill to insurance.

For COVID-19 questions, contact the City hotline at (915) 212-6843 (or 915-21-COVID).

NATIONAL MEDICAL LABORATORY PROFESSIONALS WEEK

This week, April 19 – 25, is National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week. Robert Resendes, Public Health Director, recognized this week by saying, “There are a variety of skilled and educated laboratory professionals who, as a patient, you may never see face-to-face. However, these individuals play a very important role in your health care. People working in the clinical laboratory are responsible for conducting tests that provide crucial information for detecting, diagnosing, treating, and monitoring diseases like COVID-19. We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation for the work they do behind the scenes to keep our city healthy.”
PPE UPDATE
A partial order of N95 masks ordered by EPCMS are expected today. By 1 p.m. today, send EPCMS your name, contact number, and the name of the person picking up the order.

PUBLIC HEALTH CALL CAMPAIGN
EPCMS is kicking off a public health initiative to encourage the patient community to continue all measures to “flatten the curve.” The physician’s voice is a powerful public health tool that we will use to combat the virus by unifying CDC, state, and local messaging. EPCMS will supply clinicians with a script to facilitate the call campaign.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES
Wednesday, April 23, 5:30 p.m. (MT)
EPCMS COVID GPS Physician Town Hall: How Covid-19 is Affecting your Medical Practice
Join EPCMS for a live webinar on current recommendations for returning to work, best office practices, review of novel therapies, etc. To join the meeting, click here. From your phone, call 1-872-240-3212 with the access code 229-277-437.

SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT
HHS said it is working to disburse additional funding to providers with lower shares of Medicare reimbursement (such as pediatricians, allergists, and OB-GYNs) and Medicaid providers, as well as for COVID-19 treatment for the uninsured. In an April 16 letter to the HHS Secretary, the American Academy of Pediatrics requested grant funding to cover two months of average compensation and practice expenses to account for the severely reduced case load in March and April.

SURVEY PARTICIPATION
Keep an eye out for two surveys distributed through SurveyMonkey. One survey will be to address the lack of PPE and the other will be to obtain contact info for contact tracing and hospital surge volunteers. Your participation is critical, so please complete and return the surveys as soon as possible.

TMA MEMBERSHIP DUES
The Texas Medical Association Board of has paused TMA and county medical society membership dues installment payments until further notice. The TMA board also voted to transmit to county medical societies the remaining 2020 balance owed by each of the current installment payers for your county medical society. The TMA will continue to accept online and phone installment payments but credit cards will not be processed until installments are reinstated. TMA anticipates payments will not start again before mid-June at the earliest.

CDC UPDATES
• Information for pediatric healthcare providers has been updated. Changes include:
  o Updated epidemiology, including the pediatric proportion of COVID-19 cases in United States, China, Italy, and Spain
  o Added incubation period and clinical presentation (symptoms)
  o Added illness severity, treatment and prevention, and investigational therapeutics
• Resources for contact tracing are available on the CDC site.

TELEMEDICINE INFO
Codes and info on payors for telephone-only visits:
• https://www.texmed.org/TexasMedicineDetail.aspx?id=53117&utm_source=Informz&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=TMT&_zs=ARudA1&_zi=X88h5
General telemedicine info:

RESOURCES

REOPENING AMERICA INFO
• https://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/#criteria

SMALL BUSINESS INFO
For loan comparison and disbursement information:
• https://www.hhs.gov/provider-relief/index.html
• www.liftfund.com