



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Legacy Community Health Updates Conditions for Coronavirus/COVID-19 Tests *People with chronic illness, showing symptoms can be tested*

HOUSTON, BEAUMONT (March 23, 2020) – Based on the CDC’s updated COVID screening criteria, [Legacy Community Health](http://www.legacycommunityhealth.org) is now offering testing to anyone with a chronic illness or underlying condition that results in a suppressed immune system who is also exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. Underlying conditions or those who are immunocompromised can include pregnancy, diabetes, Alzheimer’s, heart disease, cancer, or a transplant recipient. Additionally, the travel or confirmed contact with someone with COVID-19 criteria previously required are no longer required to receive a test. **It is not necessary to call our contact center ahead of coming to any of our clinics to be screened for COVID-19.**

“As this virus continues to spread throughout the community, we want to be sure the most vulnerable have access to testing. We have seen in other countries how the virus has more serious effects in the elderly, so our criteria has expanded to ensure they can be tested if they show symptoms and have an illness that could make their condition much more serious,” said Legacy’s Chief Medical Officer Dr. Vian Nguyen.

Testing is available at Legacy’s four satellite clinics that are physically separated from the main clinics to test those who screen positive. The satellite clinics are currently adjacent to Legacy’s four largest clinics in at the following locations:

HOUSTON

- Legacy Fifth Ward, 3811 Lyons Ave.
- Legacy Montrose, 1415 California St.
- Legacy Southwest, 6441 High Star Dr.

BEAUMONT

- Legacy Central Beaumont, 450 North 11th St.

Hours for these clinics will be listed on the Legacy website www.legacycommunityhealth.org and may change. Legacy continues to have screeners at the entrance of all 13 clinics across Houston, Baytown, Deer Park, and Beaumont.

Legacy will test ONLY those who screen positive. With the recent change in criteria, that means:

- People who are experiencing symptoms of fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other respiratory conditions

AND either:

- Is over the age of 65
- Has a chronic medical condition

As of Friday evening, a total of 610 patients across all four sites had been tested since the first sites opened on Monday, March 16.

Legacy continues to see patients, and is working to help them understand ways to stem the spread of this virus through educational information [online](#), on [social media](#), over the phone and in-person. Telemedicine for psychiatry and therapy patients has begun, and certain adult medicine appointments will roll out soon.

Anyone, patient or not, who has questions about testing for COVID-19 can call the Legacy contact center in Houston at (832) 548-5000 or in Beaumont at (409) 242-2525.

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About Legacy Community Health

Legacy Community Health (Legacy) is a full-service network of community medical clinics offering primary and specialty care to in the Texas Gulf Coast region. Services include adult primary care, pediatrics, dental care, vision services, behavioral health services, OB/GYN and maternity, vaccinations and immunizations, health promotion and community outreach, wellness and nutrition, and comprehensive HIV/AIDS care. With 36 locations across Houston, Baytown, Deer Park, and Beaumont, Legacy is the largest Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in Texas. Legacy has been a United Way-affiliated agency since 1990. To learn more, visit www.legacycommunityhealth.org.