

Providence Valdez Medical Center

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Dear Valdez Essential Workforce Employer,

Thank you for your continued efforts around keeping your workforce and those who rely on your services safe during these trying times. Throughout the COVID-19 response effort, we at Providence Valdez Medical Center have endeavored to support our community and be true to our promise to *“know me, care for me, easy my way.”* In that vein, we extend an invitation to your organization to participate in our **voluntary** limited COVID-19 testing program. These tests will be conducted by local caregivers from Providence Valdez Medical Center and be offered at **no charge** as long as we can secure the availability of tests.

In the past, testing was reserved for those who had symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, fever, sore throat, shortness of breath, loss of taste/smell, body aches, and more). This program expands testing to individuals with no symptoms but who engage in businesses deemed essential by State of Alaska guidelines. Because this test represents just a snapshot in time, repeated testing is necessary to give ongoing indication of infection. We will work with you to determine appropriate frequency of testing, taking into account the risk profile of your workforce and available supplies, to ensure the program remains sustainable.

The COVID-19 test is a one-time result and is not an indication of past or future illness. The test looks for potential infection within the nose or mouth and for most individuals the collection of the specimen results in little to no irritation that diminishes quickly. The actual collection can be completed in just a few seconds. Please note, if an employee has new onset of any mild symptoms, this program is not appropriate for them, and they should contact their local healthcare provider.

If you choose to participate, you will receive RSVP tickets for the initial program scheduled for June 4th, between 11:30am and 1:30pm. **Those employees who have a ticket will need to pre-register by calling (907) 255-6063 between the hours of 8am to 5pm** prior to the day of testing. In addition to pre-registering, each employee will need to **fill out a consent** for treatment, **bring their ID** and **wear a mask**. Positive results will be followed up immediately by an official from the Alaska Division of Public Health. **Testing will be in a drive through format.** For those without cars, an option will be able to walk up if necessary. Again, all testing completed is subject to available supplies and Providence reserves the right to cancel the event at any time due to safety or any other reason.

Thank you for your support in helping to keep our community healthy and safe. You and your team of essential workers are valued and appreciated.