



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Outpatient COVID-19 Testing

September 21, 2021, Indiana, PA – With hospitals across the state stretched thin, hospitals are seeing increased wait times and staffing challenges in emergency rooms. IRMC is asking patients to come to the emergency room only when they believe that they have an emergency medical condition.

"When patients show up to the emergency department for non-emergent conditions such as desiring a COVID-19 test and beds are occupied with patients that have other medical problems like heart attacks, trauma and strokes, that can back up the emergency department significantly," said Dr. Richard Neff, Chief Medical Officer at IRMC. Exceptions might include someone who is short of breath/having difficulty breathing, has blue or discolored skin, inability to wake or stay awake, or has a high fever. In these instances, please seek immediate medical attention.

Dr. Neff said the demand for COVID-19 testing continues to rise, and we are reminding people that there are other options for testing and to please not fill up emergency rooms.

Need a COVID-19 test? Click here for a list of testing locations by zip code:

<https://pema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=1a4c139769d646839e1549bcb6a668f1>

It is also recommended that you call your primary care physicians office ahead of time if you are experiencing mild COVID-19 symptoms.

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About Indiana Regional Medical Center

Indiana Regional Medical Center (IRMC) has been serving Indiana County and surrounding communities since 1914. As a nationally recognized employer, IRMC continues to meet the needs of patients and employees alike. IRMC maintains its commitment to serving the region by continually re-investing in its facilities, technology and people in order to provide the highest levels of care possible. IRMC's vision to be the best community healthcare system in the country is the cornerstone to our commitment of caring.