

Yurok Tribe offers free drive-through COVID-19 tests every Wednesday in September

September 1, 2020



The Yurok Tribe's Incident Command team and Public Health Officer collaborated with Del Norte County to offer drive-through COVID-19 tests in the Redwood Hotel Casino parking lot.

The free tests will be offered on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. through September. The casino is located at 171 Klamath Blvd.

This service is available to tribal and non-tribal residents, who are not experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. Individuals presenting with signs of COVID-19 must seek testing through their primary healthcare provider. Potential symptoms include: fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.

Residents are asked to use the following web link to make an appointment for a test:

<https://www.projectbaseline.com/study/covid-19/>. For assistance with registering for a screening, contact

Melissa Jarnaghan at 707-457-7201 or mjarnaghan@yuroktribe.nsn.us. Individuals can register at the site if there are open appointments.

On the day of the test, drive up to the first cone, where healthcare professionals will confirm the appointment. Please keep all vehicle windows rolled up at this point.

At the second stop, another staff member, speaking loud enough to be heard through a closed window, will ask for your name and will put your completed registration paperwork on your windshield.

At the third station, roll the driver's side window down a couple inches to accept a small swab in a container. A trained medical staff member will walk you through the process of self-collecting a small mucus sample from the middle of the nasal cavity. Place the swab in the receptacle and return it to the attendant. The test only takes a few seconds and causes almost no discomfort. The confidential test results are sent out within one week. Verily, the state contractor facilitating the COVID-19 screening, has the capacity to complete 200 tests per day.

Recently, the number of COVID-19 infections has substantially increased in the Humboldt County area. Due to the increasing presence of the virus near the reservation, the Yurok Public Health Officer strongly recommends that residents take advantage of the testing opportunity and follow all personal safety recommendations:

Maintain a minimum of 6-feet of personal space from individuals outside of the household

Always wear a face covering outside of the home (Wash reusable mask frequently, only use single-use masks once)

Shelter in place – traveling outside of the county is not recommended

Due to the reservation closure order, accepting guests from outside of the area is not permitted

Do not attend gatherings large or small, including visiting extended family and friends

Avoid all contact with anyone exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms

Disinfect common touch points in the home

Practice cough and sneeze etiquette (cover your sneezes and coughs with your arm. Wash hands immediately after cough or sneeze for additional protection)

Perform frequent handwashing – Wash hands every two hours for 20-30 seconds with water and soap)

If you are ill, please self-isolate and contact your medical provider

Reminder: If you feel even slightly unwell and have one or more of the common symptoms of COVID-19, it is advised that you stay home from work

