



New COVID-19 Testing Site Will Open at Charles R. Drew University on Wednesday, April 8

April 7, 2020

Dear CDU Students, Faculty and Staff:

I am proud to announce that Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science has been selected by LA County as a South Los Angeles COVID-19 testing site. Drive-through testing will begin tomorrow, Wednesday, April 8, utilizing our new grand entrance facing 120th St.

CDU joins a partnership that includes: LA County Second District Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas , LA County Department of Public Health, LA County Fire Department and Martin Luther King Outpatient Center.

This is an extremely important development for local public health and the general welfare of our communities, because, as data are now showing, under-resourced communities of color are being disproportionately affected by the novel coronavirus. [This New York Times article](#) is the most recent in a series of stories pointing out these disparities. Yet, there have been no accessible testing sites in many of these communities, despite knowing how critical testing is to helping to “flatten the curve” of this disease.

Further, while there are geographic and zip code data available, to date testing data has not been systematically collected and shared regarding race or ethnicity. The testing site at CDU will do this. We have a CDU Health Policy Team led by Dr. Roberto Vargas that is developing testing and data collection protocols that we hope will be used to refine future testing, treatment and public health measures. This team is also developing guidelines for who from CDU will be directly involved in the testing process. At least initially, LA County Fire and LA County Public Health Departments will direct and staff the testing site. Of course, we will take all necessary steps to ensure the safety and health of everyone on campus during the testing period.

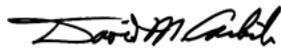
Here are the details:

- Testing will be conducted seven days per week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- At least 120 tests per day will be administered; however, they expect 200 tests per day and have the capacity to conduct up to 400 tests daily
- Testing is by appointment, and individuals must pre-register for the test due to the limited number of tests that can be done per day (see link below)
- Follow-up for positive tests will be provided by a paramedic or RN via telephone; after the call a follow-up email also will be sent

- Those with negative test results will receive an email
- Prerequisites for testing will be the same as at other county testing sites
- The site will take walk-ups in addition to drive-through appointments

For details on getting a test at CDU or any other county site, see this website: <https://covid19.lacounty.gov/testing/>. Note that as of today, the sites are listed only through April 3. CDU will be added.

We should all be proud of our involvement. These are the types of actions this University was established to undertake.



Dr. David M. Carlisle, President/CEO
Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science