



\*\*\*News Release\*\*\*

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## **ST. LUKE'S COVID-19 UPDATES: New Asymptomatic COVID-19 Testing Now Available & COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments for Minors**

### **ASYMPTOMATIC TESTING**

St. Luke's Health System will begin offering asymptomatic COVID-19 testing for certain groups starting later this week.

Asymptomatic nasopharyngeal swab testing will be available through St. Luke's current symptomatic [specimen collection locations](#) in Baker City, Boise, Fruitland, Jerome, Ketchum, McCall, Meridian, Mountain Home, Nampa and Twin Falls.

People who can make an appointment starting April 8 include those with:

- A known exposure to someone with coronavirus at school or work
- Exposures identified in high-density or communal living
- Other close contact exposures meeting CDC recommendations for testing
- Pre- and post-travel testing needs

Asymptomatic testing appointments can be scheduled through *myChart* accounts for one of the designated clinic locations. People can also call St. Luke's COVID-19 hotline for instructions or assistance at (208) 381-9500. Anyone seeking a test must have an appointment, as St. Luke's is unable to accept walk-ins. Asymptomatic testing results will be returned to patients via *myChart*.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, St. Luke's has collected and processed more than 230 thousand COVID-19 tests. New high-capacity processors in Boise and Twin Falls now allow lab teams to process up to 1,500 specimens a day.

St. Luke's has also expanded antigen testing to 51 primary care and urgent care locations, allowing those clinics to collect and process a COVID-19 test while the patient is still in the clinic. Results are back within about 20 minutes.

St. Luke's will also pilot a saliva-test workflow with employers who have existing agreements with its occupational health team to test workers following exposures within their facilities.

### **VACCINE APPOINTMENTS FOR MINORS**

The Pfizer vaccine is now available to all Idahoans, including those 16 and 17 years old, and there is important information families should know when scheduling an appointment.

Minors cannot consent for a COVID vaccine. They must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian to provide consent at the time of the appointment. Written or verbal consent will need to be provided by a parent or legal guardian, if not present at the time of the appointment.

Minors also cannot schedule their own appointments in *myChart*. Parents or legal guardians with [teen proxy access](#) can schedule an appointment for the minor. To get teen proxy access, the teen will need to grant [teen proxy access](#) to their parent or legal guardian through their own *myChart* account.

Parents can schedule an appointment for their child without proxy access by calling 208-381-9500. Minors can schedule their own vaccine appointment by calling that same number, but they must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian to provide consent at the time of the appointment or provide written or verbal consent of a parent or legal guardian, if not present at the time of the appointment.

St. Luke's offers the Pfizer vaccine at sites in Nampa, Meridian, Boise and Twin Falls.

More information about the COVID-19 vaccines available at St. Luke's can be found in a [special section](#) of the St. Luke's Website.

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