



# News Release

Unified Government Public Relations  
701 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 620  
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

Mike Taylor, Public Relations Director (913) 573-5565

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 4, 2021

## Unified Government Public Health Department Now Offers Saliva COVID-19 Testing At Its KCK Testing Facility

*Saliva Testing is Easier, More Comfortable for Patients*

The Unified Government Public Health Department (UGPHD) announced today that it is now offering saliva-based COVID-19 testing at its facility located in the former Kmart Building at 7836 State Avenue in Kansas City, KS. UGPHD officials say the saliva test is more comfortable and convenient for patients.

“The saliva test is a PCR test, just like the nasopharyngeal tests we have been using,” said Juliann Van Liew, Director of the UGPHD. “PCR tests are considered the ‘gold standard’ of COVID-19 tests, due to their accuracy. The results of the saliva tests have been shown to be just as accurate as the nasopharyngeal tests. The biggest difference is that these saliva tests are more comfortable for the patient – instead of requiring a swab at the back of the nasal cavity, these tests just require a saliva sample, which patients can easily collect themselves, in most cases. And if patients prefer, they can simply register their test kit at our facility and then do their saliva sample at home.”

The CRL Rapid Response test was developed by Lenexa, KS-based Clinical Reference Laboratory (CRL), one of the largest, privately-held testing laboratories in the United States. The tests received an Emergency Use Authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in late July of 2020. Since receiving the EUA from the FDA, CRL has processed more than 300,000 saliva COVID-19 tests.

### How to Get a CRL Saliva Test

1. Go to the UGPHD testing location at 7836 State Ave, Monday-Friday, between 9 AM and 3PM
2. When you arrive, staff will help register you with CRL so the lab can run your test and you can receive your test results (Spanish-speaking staff are available to help)
3. You will then choose from two options:
  - a. Take your test right away outside of the building (e.g. inside your car if you drove there), and return it inside the facility when you are done
    - i. Make sure you do not eat, drink, or smoke (nothing by mouth) for at least 30 minutes prior to the test
  - b. Take a test kit and instructions home with you and complete the test at your convenience
    - i. Follow the instructions, then use the FedEx shipping label included with the test kit and drop the completed test at any FedEx drop box. Find a drop box at: <https://www.fedex.com/en-us/shipping/drop-off-package.html>
4. You will receive your test results directly from CRL, not from the UGPHD

- a. If you want to check on your results, go to <https://crlclear.com/login> or call CRL's customer service number at 877-950-5500.

#### **Other Information on CRL Saliva Tests**

- This test involves spitting into a tube. There are no swabs involved.
- The CRL test does not test for seasonal influenza (flu) as part of that test (some nasopharyngeal tests check for both COVID-19 and flu – the CRL saliva test only checks for COVID-19 infection).
- The turnaround time for results with the saliva test is approximately 2-3 days.

“We want to make it as easy, convenient, and comfortable as possible for folks in our community to take a COVID-19 test,” said Van Liew. “We hope providing this option at our site will help achieve that, but we want to make additional options available. Right now we are also looking for community locations where people will be able to pick up a test kit and bring it home.”

Patients who are physically unable to do the spit test (such as the elderly, young children or those with certain disabilities) can still get the nasopharyngeal test at the testing facility. These tests will be administered by a vaccine observation nurse or vaccine safety officer at the UGPHD testing facility.

For more information on COVID-19 in Wyandotte County visit [wycokck.org/COVID-19](http://wycokck.org/COVID-19) or call 3-1-1.

*About the Unified Government Public Health Department (UGPHD):* The Unified Government Public Health Department (UGPHD), nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Wyandotte County. Learn more about the UGPHD at [wycokck.org/health](http://wycokck.org/health).

Media Inquiries:      Janell Friesen  
                                 Public Health Department Public Information Officer  
                                 Wyandotte County, Kansas  
                                 Office: (913) 573-6703  
                                 Cell: (913) 428-9622  
                                 [jfriesen@wycokck.org](mailto:jfriesen@wycokck.org)