



Allegany County HEALTH DEPARTMENT

“Healthy People, Healthy Communities”



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COVID-19: Dispelling the Myths

Myth #1: I heard that there is no coronavirus testing available in Allegany County.

Testing is available in Allegany County for those who meet testing criteria. If you are having symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath) and think you may have been exposed through travel or through contact with someone who has COVID-19, call your healthcare provider to inquire about testing. Always call ahead. This allows providers to plan for safe testing with minimal exposure to others.

Myth #2: Specimens are sent to the local health department for testing.

Here's what actually happens when individuals are tested for COVID-19:

- An individual who is experiencing symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath) and thinks they may have been exposed through travel or contact with someone who has COVID-19, contacts their health care provider.
- If the healthcare provider determines that COVID-19 testing is appropriate, the healthcare provider determines the best location for the patient to get tested. Testing involves collecting a specimen by swabbing the patient's nose and throat.
- The specimen goes to a private lab, a university lab, or to the Maryland Public Health Laboratory in Baltimore for testing.
- If the test is positive, the Allegany County Health Department is responsible for notifying potential contacts and taking public health actions to prevent the spread of disease.

Myth #3: People are saying there are confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Allegany County. It's all over Facebook, so it must be true, right?

Wrong! At this time there are **NO confirmed cases** of coronavirus disease in Allegany County. This is a continually evolving issue, and the health department will share information as it becomes available. The public will be notified if there is a positive case in Allegany County. Look to reliable sources for information such as the Allegany County Health Department, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), the Governor's Office, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). You can visit <https://health.maryland.gov/allegany> for the most up-to-date information and statistics.