



City of Seattle
Mayor Jenny A. Durkan

Executive Order 2020-11: Expanding COVID-19 Testing Sites

An Executive Order ordering City departments to identify, lease, and expedite additional sites for COVID-19 testing.

WHEREAS, in my capacity as Mayor, I proclaimed a civil emergency exists in the City of Seattle due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the March 3, 2020 Mayoral Proclamation of Civil Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee proclaimed a state of emergency within the State of Washington due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020, King County Executive Dow Constantine proclaimed a state of emergency within King County due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus, it is imperative that testing be widely available, particularly for members of our community who are at increased risk of infection and developing serious complications, including persons living unsheltered and other community members who may not have access to medical services; and

WHEREAS, wide-scale COVID-19 testing is critical to safely reopening the economy and recovery efforts and impacts the City's and the County's ability to contain the virus and mitigate the possibility of a second wave of outbreak; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle has created four free citywide sites through a partnership and formal MOU signed with Public Health – Seattle & King County and the University of Washington; and

WHEREAS, during the last two weeks, Seattle has had the highest cases to date with more than 1,800 residents were diagnosed with the virus after a prolonged period of staying under a 2% positivity rate and low daily case counts; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 cases severe enough to require hospitalizations are four times higher than at the end of the summer, increasing from 1.3 hospitalizations per 100,000 residents to 6.1. The number of people in Seattle currently in the hospital with COVID-19 has increased quickly and is the highest since April 2020; and

WHEREAS, the City currently operates four testing sites: North Seattle, SoDo, Rainier Beach, and West Seattle.

WHEREAS, despite performing nearly 6,000 tests a day, the City's four current COVID-19 testing sites are experiencing new levels of demand with over 16,000 future appointments currently booked with the drive through sites essentially fully booked for the foreseeable future; and

WEREAS, it is imperative that increased availability of testing locations be executed immediately to meet the current demand for testing accessibility; and

WHEREAS, we still see in our data that there are certain neighborhoods and demographics in our city that are continuing to face barriers to COVID-19 testing, disproportionate rates of COVID-19 infections, and less easy access to testing; and

WHEREAS, accessibility to testing is key in controlling the spread of the virus through our city and region; and

WHEREAS, there is limited additional staffing capacity of the Seattle Fire Department, creating a current inability to establish additional testing locations under the Seattle Fire Department operation and supervision;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor of Seattle, hereby order City Departments to immediately expand COVID-19 testing capacity in the city by pursuing actions that may include but are not limited to the following:

The Directors of City Departments (including, but not limited to the Department of Finance and Administrative Services and the Seattle Fire Department) are authorized to negotiate and execute one or more short-term agreements for siting and operation of COVID-19 testing sites.

To support the city-wide expansion of COVID-19 testing, while maintaining all current testing sites, Directors of City Departments should pursue new strategies that include but are not limited to the following:

- Collaboration and partnerships with new testing laboratories and operational entities.
- Identification of 5-10 additional locations to establish smaller scale COVID-19 testing sites across the city.
- Expedited permitting process through City Departments including but not limited to the Seattle Department of Construction & Inspections, Seattle Parks & Recreation and Seattle Department of Transportation.
- Any new strategies identified should include the following considerations:
 - The known data on current disparities in access to testing, disparities of rates of infection, and disparities in rates of hospitalizations.
 - The importance of maintaining high standards of scientific fidelity of testing methods and results.
 - The importance of maintaining quick results turnaround times for prompt contact tracing.

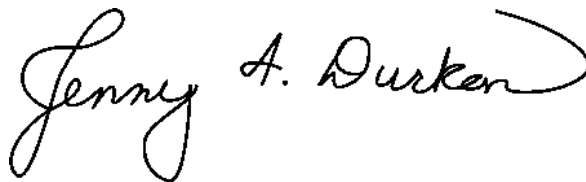
- The importance of maintaining data reporting standards to the Public Health - Seattle & King County and the City of Seattle Emergency Medical Services Director.

City Departments shall provide all necessary support to facilitate community engagement as necessary for siting and operations of new testing sites.

The City Budget Office and the Office of the Mayor will review and approve any legislation or requests for appropriation from the City Council as necessary to meet the objectives outlined in this Executive Order.

All questions related to this Executive Order shall be directed to Julie Kline, Senior Public Safety Adviser for the Mayor. Weekly progress reports related to this Executive Order shall be provided to Senior Deputy Mayor Fong.

Dated this 20th day of November, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenny A. Durkan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Jenny A. Durkan
Mayor of Seattle