



# Lincoln County Health Department

607 N. Sales Street, Suite 101, Merrill, WI 54452  
Phone: 715-536-0307 • Fax: 715-536-2011  
<http://lincolncountyhealthdepartment.com>



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Shelley Hersil, Health Officer/Director Lincoln County Health Department, 715-539-1360  
[shelley.hersil@co.lincoln.wi.us](mailto:shelley.hersil@co.lincoln.wi.us)

## Free National Guard COVID-19 Drive-thru Testing in Lincoln County

Lincoln County Health Department is collaborating with the Wisconsin National Guard to provide free COVID-19 testing. The National Guard will be providing drive-through style COVID-19 nasal swab testing at the Merrill Festival Grounds in Merrill on Friday, August 14, 2020 from 11 am - 7 pm. Anyone 5 years and older that lives or works in Wisconsin is eligible for testing.

The National Guard will be using a system called *Covid Connect* which allows individuals tested to pre-register while they wait in line at the test site which streamlines the process. "The system allows for a faster testing process, and individuals get their results faster via email. After registering online on a personal device the individual will receive a confirmation email with a QR code and an email with a link to the system to report suspected COVID-19 exposures. The QR Code replaces filling out paperwork onsite." said Jeremy Blankenship, Lincoln County Health Department Testing Coordinator. Individuals who cannot pre-register can provide their information to the National Guard the day of the event.

The entrance for the event will be off of N. Sales Street in Merrill. Please be aware that the testing will be provided first come, first serve and that attendees may have to wait to be tested. Testing supplies are limited. Vehicles will form a line while waiting for testing, and all attendees will need to stay in or on their vehicle at all times. No restroom facilities will be available onsite; please plan accordingly. Attendees are asked to wear face coverings upon arrival.

The Nasal Swab PCR test that will be used at this event is over 99% accurate. The National Guard will be in uniform and in full PPE (personal protective equipment including gowns, mask, gloves, etc.) during this event. The goal of the event is to provide our county residents with free COVID-19 testing. Following this event, we will continue to support local healthcare providers as they continue building capacity to meet patient demand.

**Please note that anyone tested is required to stay home until test results come back.** Test results will be provided via email or phone by the National Guard or by your local health department in a timely manner.

There are additional community testing sites in Wisconsin throughout August. Any Wisconsin resident is welcome to attend any one of the testing events. Information can be found at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/testing.htm>. For the latest information about COVID-19 in Lincoln County visit:

<https://co.lincoln.wi.us/covid19> or follow us on Facebook. You can also visit the [CDC's website](#) or the [DHS website](#).

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