

Ivy Tech Valpo Campus Chosen for Advanced COVID-19 Testing

Ivy Tech Community College's Valparaiso campus has been chosen by the Indiana State Department of Health as a northwest Indiana site for advanced COVID-19 testing to measure the spread of COVID-19 throughout the state, providing critical information to understand how the virus is affecting Hoosiers and what may be done to protect the community. "As a community, it's vitally important to learn how widespread the COVID-19 virus has become and whether or not many of us benefit from some immunity," said Valparaiso Mayor Matt Murphy. "We're grateful to Ivy Tech Chancellor Aco Sikoski and his staff at for hosting this testing for the local region. We value these important partnerships and Ivy Tech's ongoing leadership," said Murphy.

"Data is key in guiding our response in the fight against COVID-19, and our partnership with Fairbanks School of Public Health researchers will provide high-quality information to help shape our decision-making," said Governor Eric J. Holcomb. Participants in the study will be selected randomly to represent a cross section of the population. Those selected will be notified by mail, text message, email or phone.

In total, at least 20,000 Hoosiers will be tested for the study, which will be conducted in four phases over the next year, beginning on Saturday, April 25. This first round of testing will include a pool of at least 5,000 Hoosiers from across Indiana's 10 emergency preparedness districts. Testing will include both nasopharyngeal swabs and blood draws. The nasopharyngeal swabs will be tested for COVID-19 within 72 to 96 hours, while the blood samples will be tested at a later date for antibodies to determine if an individual has had COVID-19 in the past. Participants will choose how they wish to be notified of their individual results and collective results will be available after the study is complete.

"Having the ability to not only test for the presence of this virus, but also to learn more about people who have been exposed in the past and might have antibodies that indicate past infection, will help us fine-tune our work to keep Hoosiers safe from this pandemic," said State Health Commissioner Dr. Kris Box. "We are grateful that this partnership will help make that happen."