



Eileen M. Donoghue
City Manager

Kara Keefe Mullin
Assistant City Manager

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 25, 2020

Contact: Phil Geoffroy
Executive Assistant-Communications
978-674-4400 | pgeoffroy@lowellma.gov

CVS to End Rapid Testing Operations at Reiss Ave. Site in Lowell

LOWELL, MA – On Saturday, June 27, CVS will conclude COVID-19 testing operations at its rapid testing site in Lowell at the Showcase Cinema parking lot. Since April, the site has offered no-cost testing to Massachusetts residents using Abbott ID NOW COVID-19 technology to produce results in an average of fifteen minutes. Testing has gradually decreased at the site over the last several weeks based on reduced demand. During the surge of new COVID-19 cases in Massachusetts, the site conducted up to 1,000 tests per day.

The site's closure is prompted by the expiration of CVS Health's contract with the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, which was relied upon in the site's operation.

"From the outset of the coronavirus crisis, it was clear that access to testing would be among the most important factors in containing the spread of the virus and protecting the health of the community. The CVS rapid testing site was an invaluable asset to the City of Lowell and to the region during the height of the crisis, and we are grateful to CVS for their partnership in bringing largescale rapid testing to Lowell," **said City Manager Eileen Donoghue.** "In combination with testing operations at Lowell General Hospital, the site enabled the Lowell to reach one of the highest testing rates of residents in the Commonwealth."

According to [statistics](#) from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, 18,501 Lowell residents had been tested for COVID-19 as of Wednesday, June 24, producing a rate of residents tested of 15831.94 per 100,000.

The City of Lowell is engaged in conversations with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and local health partners to assess the need for testing in the City and to identify opportunities for additional testing in the absence of the CVS rapid testing site.

“While Massachusetts has seen favorable trends in the data around COVID-19 infections in recent weeks, the availability of testing remains critical,” said **Lowell Director of Health and Human Service Joanne Belanger**. “The Health Department is working actively to ensure that testing remains accessible to Lowell residents following the departure of the CVS site.”

COVID-19 remains available by appointment at Lowell General Hospital and at the Lowell Community Health Center. CVS Health continues to offer non-rapid drive-thru testing at certain CVS store locations throughout Massachusetts and intends to begin offering testing at a nearby location in Dracut this week.

###