



June 4, 2020

### Free COVID-19 Testing in Petoskey This Weekend

This weekend, Michigan residents have an additional opportunity to access free drive-thru testing. Through a partnership between the Michigan National Guard, Michigan State Police, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, the Odawa Casino, Tri-County Office of Emergency Management, and the Health Department of Northwest Michigan, with the support of Petoskey Department of Public Safety and Emmet County, are excited to offer free COVID-19 testing this weekend to any Michigan resident. This is a unique opportunity to provide increased access to testing. No appointment or doctors order is needed to get tested this weekend at the drive-thru testing site.

“As a member of the community, it’s our responsibility to help keep our community safe and informed. Partnering with the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Public Safety and Law enforcement, Northwest Michigan Health Department, and the Michigan National Guard to offer free testing is a great opportunity for us to do just that,” states Ron Olson, general manager of Odawa Casinos. “We encourage individuals in the area to take advantage of this testing and hope everyone stays safe.”

Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Chairperson-Regina Gasco-Bentley states, "information is power. Testing is more available now than it has ever been since this pandemic began, and we have the opportunity to provide our community access to testing, to better protect themselves and their families."

#### What you need to know

- Where: Odawa Casino, 1760 Lears Rd, Petoskey, MI 49770
- When: 10 am – 4 pm on Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>
- What to bring: Driver's license or state ID
- What to expect: Upon arrival to the Odawa Casino, there will be one entrance into testing and traffic cones and signs will direct you throughout the parking lot until you reach a testing space. You will need to show your identification through the window and consent to the testing procedures before proceeding to the testing corral.
- Results: Expected to have results within 7 days. The Health Department of Northwest Michigan will be responsible for reporting results and any further action regarding contact tracing, and or self-quarantine guidance as well as communication with the local health

Dr. Meyerson, Health Department of Northwest Michigan Medical Director, shares, “from a public health perspective, testing remains very important both to ensure early identification of infected individuals but also so that we can gain as much information as we can about the presence of this illness in our area. We are grateful to be partnering with the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, the Odawa Casino, Public Safety and Law enforcement, and Michigan National Guard to offer this testing in our communities.”

*The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is mandated by the Michigan Public Health Code to promote wellness, prevent disease, provide quality healthcare, address health problems of vulnerable populations, and protect the environment for the residents and visitors of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego counties. For more information, visit [nwhealth.org](http://nwhealth.org).*

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