

TOWN OF HAMDEN OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Media Release

For Immediate Release January 3rd, 2022

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<u>UPDATE: Hamden to Distribute COVID Self-</u> <u>Administered Rapid Tests</u>

Hamden – UPDATE: Hamden has received our initial allotment of COVID self-administered rapid tests. The Town will begin distribution to our community partners at noon today, Monday January 3rd. Public access times may vary slightly at each distribution point.

This initial distribution is for Hamden residents. Tests will be limited to 1 kit per household. Each kit contains 1 FlowFlex test. Please be prepared to provide identification. A state ID or utility bill is sufficient. Please wear your mask.

Tests are best utilized when a person is symptomatic. An asymptomatic person may not have enough viral load for the test to register.

The State has asked that we give preference to vulnerable populations which would be the elderly and those with comorbidities. The Town is distributing directly to limited elderly living facilities in addition to the public distribution sites below.

Tests will be available via drive thru until supplies run out to Hamden residents at the following locations:

Hamden Middle School 2623 Dixwell Ave Today 1/3, 2pm-4pm

Keefe Community Center

Drive thru 11 Pine St or walk-up on Parking lot side on George St. Today 1/3, 2pm-6pm

The Spring Glen Church, UCC 1825 Whitney Ave Today 1/3, 5pm-8pm

Mt. Calvary Revival Center 450 West Todd St Tuesday 1/4, 10am-3pm

Breakthrough Church 481 Shelton Ave Tuesday 1/4, 10am-3pm

Hamden is scheduled to receive a shipment of N95 masks on Wednesday, January 5th. Distribution to the public will follow. These masks, when worn properly, prevent the airborne spread of COVID. Please continue proper handwashing and maintain social distance when possible. The Omicron variant has proven to be very transmittable.

The current rate of infection is now over 20%. We believe that the speed at which Omicron is going through the nation and our community means that we will get through this quickly. We currently have many employees that have tested positive and many more will test positive. Please be patient and understand that services may suffer temporarily due to staffing shortages.

<u>Please get vaccinated.</u> <u>Get boosted.</u> 70% of the people hospitalized are not fully vaccinated. We know that the vaccine provides the best protection against the severe symptoms of COVID.

For further information, please contact Acting Deputy Chief of Staff, Alexa M. Panayotakis, at (203) 287-7009 or by email at apanayotakis@hamden.com.

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