

Where to get tested

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testing negative, but it's going to help the coworkers to feel comfortable going back to work – if they know that their coworkers have been tested and are showing negative."

Speaking with Wydysh on her afternoon LCTV update, Public Health Director Dan Stapleton said, "Once we get to around 7,000 tests done, then we can start making intelligent decisions about whether we're reaching people adequately; are we getting a handle on whether the numbers are increasing rapidly or whether they're decreasing. You need a certain amount of tests and amount of data to make smart decisions, and that's how we make our decisions – based on the medical data – so we can make smart decisions."

Where to Get Tested

The number of sites performing coronavirus testing has increased in recent weeks.

•At the end of April, the state Department of Health set up a testing hub at **Niagara County Community College**. Residents can make an appointment by calling 888-364-3065 or online at covid-

19screening.health.ny.gov.

"I know the NCCC site can take up to 500 people a day, and they're not seeing that capacity," Wydysh said. "We're hearing that they are being very general and broad in their determination of who qualifies and who can have the test. But definitely for the businesses, we're suggesting that they have everybody tested."

•Last week, it was announced both **Rite Aid** and **Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center** would begin testing.

Residents can visit the Rite Aid at 1030 Pine Ave., Niagara Falls, after completing a prescreening and making an appointment via www.riteaid.com.

NFMMC stated drive-thru testing would take place "by appointment from 8 a.m. to noon daily at the downtown Niagara Falls campus. Afternoon appointments will be available at Niagara County satellite sites from 1-5 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays.

"During the week of May 11, the afternoon test site will be behind the Summit Healthplex, 6934 Williams Road, Wheatfield. The following week, beginning May 18, it will

take place at NFMMC's Eastern Niagara County Health Home office, 80 Main St., Lockport.

"Testing will be overseen by Dr. Rajinder Bajwa, Memorial's board-certified infectious disease specialist. He will be assisted by experienced nurses, mid-level providers and physicians from Memorial's family medicine residency program. The COVID-19 lab tests will be analyzed by Kaleida Health's medical laboratory.

"Pre-registration is required. Those being tested will be required to call 716-278-4496 to schedule an appointment and to provide a prescription from their primary care physician or other medical provider. A prescription may also be obtained from Bajwa and should be requested from the medical center when scheduling a test appointment."

•**Quest** and **WellNow** also offer testing. More information is available on this newspaper's website, www.wnypapers.com. Find additional test sites online, as well.

"We just heard that Quest is getting many, many more tests to have in not just our region, but I think three regions all together,

so that they can help with meeting those metrics. I know Quest is going to have plenty of supplies. I believe Rite Aid was going to be well-stocked; Niagara Falls Memorial is doing them at the hospital and now at two satellite offices in Wheatfield and Lockport, as well, for a week each. So, there's a lot of testing sites out there. People should not have a problem at this point finding a place to be tested," Wydysh said. "They might just need an order from their doctor, depending on which place they go. So that might be the bigger piece that they have to do. But I know Niagara Falls Memorial, Dr. Bajwa, who is running that testing facility, will help with a script, as well, if they can't get one or don't have their own doctor to get one from."

Antibody Testing

Wydysh said, "The antibody testing really isn't offered by that many places yet. I think they're doing them at Quest and WellNow, but you still have to have an order from your doctor to get it done.

"And the further we go along, the more we're hearing that that's not as reliable as they thought maybe

it was. A lot of people coming back with test results that maybe aren't accurate or, you know, in the beginning everybody thought if you got the virus once you couldn't get it again. So, if you were showing those antibodies, then you knew you were safe to be out and about. And now they're saying that is not necessarily the case.

"I mean, antibody testing can't hurt. The other reason that's good is there's this talk of potentially donating your plasma to someone who is extremely ill – although I'm not hearing that's happening around here. So, to know that you're eligible for that in the future could be a good thing, but I don't know that it helps right now.

"Neither test is a bad idea. They're both helpful to get for your peace of mind, if nothing else. But really right now, it's the diagnostic testing is the only one that factors into our metrics for reopening."

Results

Wydysh said, Monday to Monday, 2,000 Niagara County residents received a diagnostic test, and "about 12% of the individuals tested are coming back positive, which is a decline for us."

Gooch also delivered meals for Easter

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Farm Market donated apples for applesauce for Easter.

When asked what it was like to see the community rally around this event, Gooch said it was all par for the course.

"I didn't expect it, but I'm not surprised," he said. "We have an amazing community. People are just good-hearted and they care.... I mean, it's just great that they're talking about it and taking care of each other, and their neighbors."

Included with every meal is

a note written by Gooch that includes COVID-19-related safety tips, pertinent health service phone numbers, and positive messages reminding seniors they are not forgotten. Last week's meals also included an extra gift: face masks manufactured by Custom Covers & Canvas to help promote safe health practices among seniors.

The feedback from seniors has been overwhelmingly positive. For many, it's not just about the meal, it's the reminder there's a community that cares for them

that makes all the difference.

"The phone calls that I've been getting and the emails and letters in the mail – the seniors love it. People are saying things like, 'This isn't just a nice night for us not to have to cook, but it really gives us hope in humanity,'" Gooch said. "It's a lot more than just getting meals for \$5. A lot of them have been isolated, so just to get out for a half-hour to pick up a meal, it's a huge thing for them. It's a sense of community. I'm glad that it's working out."

While the initiative was initially

planned to wrap up at the end of April, Gooch said that, since the shutdown continues, operations will continue for the rest of the month. But Gooch doesn't mind the extra work. Neither does his 9-year-old son, Tyler, who also eagerly helps each week.

At the end of the day, Gooch said he's proud to be a part of something positive in such uncertain times.

"I'm just happy that I'm able to be a part of it and that the community and the seniors are very receptive and appreciative of it. I

just couldn't be happier," he said.

Menu items for each week are announced every Friday at noon on Gooch's Facebook page. Wheatfield seniors who wish to place an order are asked to call Gail Connery at 694-8504. North Tonawanda seniors are asked to call Kim Simon at 423-9513. Customers are also urged not to call J&L Boulevard BBQ for orders. Orders are currently limited to seniors from the respective Wheatfield and North Tonawanda areas only.

LaDuca teams with Chamber of Commerce

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To date, more than \$5,100 has been donated.

On his web page, <https://www.gofundme.com/f/lewiston-painting>, LaDuca said, "Without our small shops and restaurants, Lewiston would not be the same.

"As residents of Lewiston for over 30 years, we (Michael and Michele LaDuca) have cherished memories in and around each of its buildings, businesses, and landmarks.

"Because of that, this landscape was one of the most rewarding things I have ever painted. (www.lewistonlandscape.com/).

"It is no secret that our entire community truly loves and appreciates what we have, so let's continue to do what we can to preserve it.

"We are hoping that this small incentive can help build the funds to support this community in even the smallest way."

LaDuca noted the "Lewiston Painting To Support Lewiston's Community" fundraiser is in partnership with the Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber President Jennifer Pauly said, "He called the office a few weeks ago looking to see how he could help the businesses.

We were exploring the option of looking for a 'fund' of some sort; however, our organization is not equipped to handle funds in that way (like the Community Foundation can, or other grant-funded programs). We mentioned our gift certificate program and how it benefits those businesses that accept them. He created his GoFundMe page with the intent to raise funds to purchase the gift certificates to give to those on the frontlines.

"It was very generous – giving to those who are serving and, in turn, funneling those funds to the businesses when they are re-

deemed."

The full list of 60-plus Lewiston businesses participating in the chamber's gift certificate pro-

gram can be found at <https://www.niagarariverregion.com/chamber-and-local-info/gift-certificates/>.

IN THE NEWS

Artpark concert update

Artpark & Company provided the following update on Wednesday:

Canceled concerts: Dropkick Murphys & Rancid (May 24), The Head and The Heart (May 27), AWOLNATION with Andrew McMahon (May 31), Vampire Weekend (June 2), Bright Eyes (June 14), Andrew Bird and Calexico and Iron & Wine (June 15).

Joe Russo's Almost Dead has been rescheduled to Aug. 20, 2021.

King Crimson (July 1) announced their tour would be rescheduled to 2021. Artpark is "actively working with them on

a new date. We will share options with ticket holders as soon as details are confirmed."

Details on these events have been communicated to ticketholders. Those with tickets to any of these shows who have not yet received an email should contact the venue at artpark@artpark.net.

'Spring into Summer Reimagined'

Typically at the start of the park season, the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy holds its annual fundraising luncheon, "Spring into Summer." While guests are not able to be together this year, the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Con-

servancy is offering a virtual, reimagined event that will showcase much of the fun and fanfare that the vibrant in-person event is known for.

"Spring into Summer Reimagined," a virtual event, will be held online via the digital platform, OneCause. From here, guests will be able to make donations, access a basket raffle and a wine pull, flip through this year's program book, and watch program videos. In the desire to highlight everyone's bright and colorful hats and/or bowties, a special social media contest, "Hats off to Olmsted," will launch May 18 and culminate with the final program on May 21. Visit www.bfloparks.org/sis2020.



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On behalf of the Ramblin' Lou Family and our WXRL Family & Staff, we sincerely hope that you and your Family are staying home, safe & well. And, when you're ready to travel, we're here for you. We can't wait to get back "On The Road Again"! Check our website at wxrl.com for up-to-date information. Stay well friends.

RAMBLIN' LOU TOURS

"Travel with Friends"

Join your hosts Joanie, Linda Lou & Lou IV

Sept. 27-Oct. 2 - Vermont/N. Hampshire/Maine-Acadia Nat. Park/Train Ride

Oct. 6 - Spragues Maple Farm/Casino (\$25 free play & \$5 food)

Oct. 10-14 - Greenbrier & Elkins, WV - 2 Trains-Amtrak/Durbin Rocket

Oct. 12 & 13 - Thousand Islands/Boat Cruise/Ron & Nancy Onesong

Oct. 20-26 - Memphis/Graceland/Nashville/Grand Ole Opry

Nov. 2-4 - Amish Holiday - Lancaster, PA "Queen Ester & Christmas Show"

Nov. 10-12 - "Fest. of Light's-Oglebay Park/Wilson Lodge - Wheeling, WV

Nov. 27-Dec. 1 - Nashville Country Christmas/Opryland Hotel/Grand Ole Opry

NEW 2021

January 11-21, 2021 WXRL'S SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE

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Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm • wxrl.com

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