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***** Press Release *****

***Jersey City Launches Two Covid-19 Testing Sites for Jersey City Residents;
Drive-thru and Walk-up sites to Help Curb Spread of Deadly Virus***

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Steven Fulop** will join **Health and Public Safety officials** this Friday at 10a.m. to announce the opening of the Jersey City testing sites, one drive-thru site and one walk-up site, located on either side of Jersey City to best accommodate Jersey City residents.

With limited access to COVID-19 testing, the city decided to take aggressive actions to increase access to testing where lacking to help curb the spread of the international pandemic in our region.

“We know testing is key to fight the virus, so we decided to use city funds to give better resources to Jersey City residents,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “Our residents deserve the best access to healthcare and testing, and we know these testing sites are an important part of the equation.”

Without testing, it’s difficult to identify which areas have infections, how many people are infected, and the seriousness of the infection’s growth rate. The city’s two sites will send the tests the same vendor the state sites are using, which averages 72 hours to return results.

“We’re seeing the number of positive cases rise steeply nationwide, inundating our hospital system and compromising abilities to handle the further influx of positives as this virus continues to spread,” said **Stacey Flanagan, Director of Jersey City’s Health and Human Services**. “It’s proven that intervention and testing works to significantly slow the pace of the epidemic which will greatly help us provide care while lowering numbers of critically ill and overall positive cases.”

The first Jersey City testing site is a drive-thru in the southwest section of the city outside of the former DPW complex, located at 575 NJ-440. The drive-thru allows residents to drive up and show proof of address, before being swabbed and driving away.

The second location in the East is walk-up testing site with an expedited process out of the Public Safety Headquarters building located at 465 Marin Boulevard.

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Both sites will follow an appointment-only system with proof of address (a recent phone, electric, or gas bill) upon arrival. Any resident who have been exposed to the virus and are exhibiting symptoms – dry cough, fever, or shortness of breath – is asked to call the Covid Call Center 201-547-5535 to make an appointment.

Both testing sites and the Call Center will be open 7 days a week, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

“We cannot get complacent,” said **Public Safety Director James Shea**. “We expect to enter a rough period in the very near future as the number of positive cases continues to climb. If we can confirm who has it and who doesn’t through these testing sites, we’ll have much more control over this situation as we’ve learned from the cities overseas who have been battling the virus for months.”

Friday’s press conference will be held at 10 a.m. outside of the walk-in testing site, 465 Marin Boulevard.

All media inquiries should be directed to Kimberly Scalcione at KScalcione@jcnj.org.