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## SANTA CRUZ COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH EXPANDS TESTING CAPACITY

**Santa Cruz County, Calif.** – To help meet community demands for free COVID-19 testing during a Delta-driven surge in coronavirus cases, Santa Cruz County Public Health is expanding testing options throughout Santa Cruz County.

Most new cases are occurring in North County, with demand for testing at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium OptumServe testing site exceeding capacity. To help meet this demand, the County and OptumServe have added a third testing lane effective immediately. This brings daily testing capacity at the site to 594.

The site is open Monday-Friday from 7 a.m.-6:45 p.m., but is closed from 11 a.m.-noon and 4 p.m.-5 p.m. daily. Walk-ins will be accommodated if possible, but the only way to assure testing access is to make an appointment at https://lhi.care/covidtesting/.

On September 1, a second lane will be added at the Ramsay Park OptumServe testing site in Watsonville, bringing total daily testing capacity to 396. The site is open Wednesday-Sunday from 7 a.m.-6:45 p.m., but is closed from 11 a.m.-noon and 4 p.m.-5 p.m. daily. Appointments are available at https://lhi.care/covidtesting/.

In addition, County Public Health has secured a mobile testing bus capable of administering 84 tests per day, which is capable in being positioned at various locations in the San Lorenzo Valley. Operations will begin September 10th at Mountain Community Resource Center in Felton, and the site will operate Friday-Tuesday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. for the foreseeable future. This service is being provided in collaboration with Community Bridges.

Testing turnaround times are highly dependent on testing volume, and testing volume is currently high. Additional testing sites including those offering rapid-turnaround tests are available at www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus under the "Get Tested" link. Some sites may charge a fee.

For local information on COVID-19, go to www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus, or call (831) 454-4242 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.