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RELEASE**

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## Drive-Thru COVID-19 Specimen Collection Moves into Phase II Seniors with Symptoms Targeted

This morning the Department of Public Health announced that the drive-thru COVID-19 specimen collection site will collect specimens of seniors 65 years of age or older who have a temperature of 99.6 F or higher.

“We are moving into the second phase of our testing and are now focusing our efforts on members of our community who may belong to high risk groups and could be more seriously affected by the disease,” said Dr. Hector Ocaranza, El Paso City/County Health Authority.

No doctor laboratory order is needed for seniors to have their specimens collected but they must meet the criteria of having a temperature of 99.6 F or higher. The testing is free and requires no insurance coverage.

Seniors can make an appointment by calling (915) 494-0982 during operational hours of Monday thru Friday from 7am – 3pm. Location of the collection specimen drive-thru site will be provided when the appointment is made. Participants should not take any fever reducing medications prior to their appointment.

The process to have samples collected will follow the previously described scenario and media **will not** be allowed to visit the site to maintain the safety of everyone involved.

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