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News Release

Priority COVID-19 Testing Available for All Georgia First Responders

(ATLANTA) – To help maintain the readiness of first responders, the Georgia Department of Public Health, in partnership with the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency will begin COVID-19 priority testing June 15, for first responders at all specimen points of collection (SPOC) sites throughout Georgia.

“We’ve been working to ensure that every Georgian has access to testing,” said Kathleen E. Toomey, M.D., M.P.H., commissioner of the Georgia Department of Public Health. “Making sure our first responders have quick access to testing helps keep them healthy as they care for their communities.”

First responders can go to any SPOC, show their official id and be tested. There is no need to set up an appointment. A list of SPOC locations can be found at <https://dph.georgia.gov/locations/covid-19-testing-site>.

“First responders are vital to health and safety of our communities, and we want to support them by ensuring they are able to be tested quickly and efficiently,” said GEMA/HS Director Homer Bryson. “We also want citizens to be secure, knowing that when a firefighter, paramedic, or police officer goes to a call, those responders have been tested for COVID-19.”

As part of the Office of the Governor, GEMA/HS works with local, state and federal governments, in partnership with the private sector and faith-based community, to protect life and property against man-made and natural emergencies. In addition, GEMA/HS employees are on 24-hour call statewide to assist local authorities when disaster strikes. GEMA/HS’s *Ready Georgia* campaign helps Georgians prepare for disasters. Go to gema.ga.gov for information on developing a custom emergency plan and Ready kit.

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