

Dingmans Medical: Center for Infinite Health & Wellness

COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) TESTING

March 19, 2020

As we are all aware, the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting our country at all levels; from the smallest townships up to our federal government. Medical facilities and providers are at the epicenter of caring for those possibly affected, but are experiencing limited resources with regard to test kits and protective equipment. Pike County, in particular, has experienced difficulties in obtaining these resources and having testing available.

I have spent countless hours, along with my staff, in taking a proactive approach to obtain the needed resources to combat the spread of this illness and put together a plan of action to most effectively and safely meet this crisis head on. I am extremely grateful to Pike County Emergency Management who assisted in getting us some of the proper personal protective equipment, and to LabCorp and Quest for supplying us with testing swabs. With that said, I am pleased to announce the following services that will be available to patients of Dingmans Medical Center to assess and test for COVID-19:

Telemedicine visits will be available to existing patients of Dingmans Medical Center who are experiencing signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and have possibly been exposed. Telemedicine is offered through our patient portal/Healow app, and allows for a full assessment by a medical provider without leaving the comfort and safety of your home. Based on the assessment of your provider, testing may be ordered to include COVID-19, flu, strep, and other tests as appropriate. Signs and symptoms of COVID-19 include a cough, possibly with a fever and shortness of breath. In some cases, non-respiratory symptoms such as nausea, vomiting or diarrhea have been reported.

Fast track testing will be offered during certain hours at Dingmans Medical Center after the initial telemedicine assessment is completed. This will be set up at the other entrance to the building (opposite Access Physical Therapy). For safety reasons, the fast track testing will be conducted in a drive thru style by specially trained Dingmans Medical personnel wearing appropriate personal protective equipment. Upon driving up to the awning, we will verify patient identification and perform the necessary swabs. Patients will not leave their vehicles. Tests will be sent to LabCorp or Quest depending upon insurance, and results should be expected within 4-5 days depending on volume/demand.

Due to limited resources, we are able to offer this service to current patients of Dingmans Medical Center through your insurance. Unfortunately, for those interested in screening and testing that are not current Dingmans Medical patients, these services will be offered on a self pay basis only, insurance will not be billed. The self pay fee for the assessment and screening will be \$75.00. Any additional lab fees may be applied directly from the lab company.

I am extremely proud of the tireless efforts made by my staff as part of our commitment to healthcare in this community. Although we are concerned for our own welfare, we are rising to meet this challenge. Please bear this in mind as my staff and I work to provide care to the over 10,000 active patients in our database while still caring for our own families at home. We will continue to update with telemedicine instructions and implementation dates. In the meantime, remember to wash hands regularly or use hand sanitizer, cover coughs and sneezes with your elbow, and practice social distancing.

Warm Regards,
Lisa Pathak, MD