

Free on-site COVID-19 tests for employees.



Colleagues,

Your hard work and dedication to keeping the New York region moving throughout this pandemic have been unmatched. We want to assure you that our top priority continues to be your health and safety.

That's why the MTA is announcing a new voluntary, on-site COVID-19 Screening Program at no cost to employees. As part of MTA's COVID response protocols and as health experts continue to warn of a second wave, this new on-site screening effort will serve as an additional precautionary measure designed to monitor the health of essential employees, help stop the spread of the virus and maintain a safe work environment.

The initial phase of the new program will launch on Monday, October 26th and include a three-pronged testing approach:

1. **Field Sites:** On-site testing will be made available on a rotating schedule at select employee facilities. These locations will be determined by MTA Occupational Health Services (OHS) in coordination with operating agencies, prioritizing the hotspot and cluster zone changes made by New York State.
2. **Medical Assessment Centers (MACs) and Occupational Health Services (OHS) Facilities:** Testing will also be offered to all employees scheduled to visit a MAC or OHS facility. Employees must register to come into a MAC or OHS facility if you are not already scheduled to visit.
3. **Existing Partnership with Northwell Health:** Additionally, free diagnostic testing remains available to MTA workers at [Northwell Health-GoHealth Urgent Care](#) centers throughout the New York metropolitan region.

The COVID-19 Screening Program will be expanded to additional sites and scaled up in the coming weeks. Check back [here](#) to get an updated schedule of screening locations.

Here's how the new screening program works: The MTA is partnering with BioReference Laboratories to perform testing. Testing will be conducted as a PCR nasal swab—which is considered the most accurate test available—and will take approximately five minutes. The program is voluntary, but participation is strongly recommended. Turnaround time for results will be 24-48 hours under normal circumstances and employees will receive their results in that timeframe.

The initial sites we plan to roll out in the next two weeks are as follows:

- Flatbush Bus Depot
- East New York Bus Depot

- Ulmer Park Bus Depot
- Jackie Gleason Bus Depot
- Grand Avenue Bus Depot
- College Point Bus Depot
- Jamaica Bus Depot
- JFK Bus Depot
- Queens Village Bus Depot
- Gun Hill Bus Depot
- West Farms Bus Depot
- Charleston Bus Depot
- Medical Assessment Center 1
- Medical Assessment Center 3
- Medical Assessment Center 5
- OHS Graybar Facility (MNR)
- OHS Mineola Facility (LIRR)
- 207th Street Yard
- Coney Island Yard
- Hillside Yard (LIRR)

Reminder: If you are sick, stay home.

The new screening program is targeted at identifying asymptomatic carriers. We continue to have incidents where employees are reporting to work at MTA locations with COVID-19 like symptoms, including high fever and loss of smell and taste. The implications of coming to work while experiencing symptoms are very serious and puts others at risk and violates our healthcare protocols.

Additionally, we encourage you to get your free flu shot this year which you can get at more than 50 select MTA locations and at all MTA MACs, at your own physician, or free of charge at all Walgreens locations in the New York metropolitan area with a voucher.

Please visit the [MTA COVID-19 Employee Resources](#) page to learn more information and sign up today, call to register at 347-643-8254, or speak directly with your manager.

Additionally, testing information can also be found at the New York State Department of Health, or by calling the NYS COVID-19 Hotline at 1-888-364-3065.

Together we can work to keep each other safe during this unprecedented public health crisis.

Regards,

Patrick Warren
Chief Safety Officer