



## HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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TO: Howard County Employees

FROM: Calvin Ball  
County Executive

SUBJECT: Message from County Executive Ball to Employees; Antibody Test Opportunity

DATE: July 12, 2021

**This communication was sent via global email to all Howard County employees on Monday, July 12, 2021 at 5:28 PM**

Dear Colleagues,

As we work together to put the COVID-19 crisis behind us, the safety and health of our workforce remains a top priority. We want to provide access to important information to help equip and protect our workforce.

In the fall of 2020, we launched an effort where more than 900 county employees took a serology test. Through this process, we found that our PPE and safety protocols were working. To learn more about the antibody test, visit the <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/serology> or [CDC website](#).

I am pleased to let you know that the County has partnered with Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Lab (JHU APL) to provide another unique opportunity. JHU APL has designed an antibody (serology) study to gain an accurate estimate COVID-19 exposure and transmission rates within Howard County.

Through this study, we will be able to measure the extent of viral transmission within the general population and various sub-populations. The effort launched on July 4<sup>th</sup>, with residents participating. The goal of the study is to have 3,300 participants (including employees) contributing to this valuable research.

We encourage you to participate in this voluntary study. This saliva test will not require any blood samples. We sincerely hope you will participate. Also, you will not be charged for this test. Here is more information for you to participate.

### **Where to Get your Test**

This week, you can obtain a test at the George Howard Building from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on these days:

Wednesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup>

Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup>

**Full Address:**  
**George Howard Building**  
**3430 Court House Drive**  
**Ellicott, MD 21043**

**What to Bring**

When you show up for your scheduled appointment, you will need to have a form of identification.

**Test Results and Privacy**

Results will not be disclosed to anyone in the County Government, including your supervisor, Department head, the Department of Human Resources, or County Administration. The County Government will *only* receive anonymous aggregate data compiled by the MICH team members, specifically the total number of positive and negative test results.

**Other Important Information**

Please work with your direct supervisor if you need to get a test during work hours. If you have any questions about the test or the patient portal, please contact the Study Team at 240-59-COVID or [HoCoCOVID@jhuapl.edu](mailto:HoCoCOVID@jhuapl.edu).

The antibody test does not detect an active COVID-19 infection, but whether you have had the virus or been exposed to it, even if you never displayed symptoms.

This is an innovative and exciting opportunity that I hope you will participate in.

Sincerely,

Calvin Ball  
County Executive

