

COVID-19 testing resumes at HCC

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HOLYOKE – Less than a month after ceasing use of Holyoke Community College as a COVID-19 testing site, it is being re-opened.

The college announced this week it is resuming the COVID-19 testing, though it's not part of the state-sponsored testing program, HCC's Media Relations Manager Chris Yurko said.

"The state decided to close testing at certain locations and consolidate because tests were few and far between at that point," Yurko said. "The state initiated the closure of the Stop the Spread testing site at HCC on March 31."

Yurko said the state's Stop the Spread program testing was being held at HCC for the last year, and the state made the schedule for when they would end

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Curative will be hosting COVID-19 testing going forward. The state-sponsored "Stop the Spread" testing ceased at the end of March.

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the program, though they kept continuing the program as cases rose.

The state formally finished the program at HCC at the end of last month, but then began hosting testing sites at the Holyoke Mall

Yurko said both Curative and the Board of Health approached HCC about hosting the testing again.

“It was at Curative’s request and the Holyoke Board of Health that HCC agree to be the host site, because we like to be good community partners and you know, we have the space,” Yurko said. “It’s convenient for people to come to the HCC

campus, that part of the parking lots is pretty empty.”

Yurko said the testing is in a very similar area at parking lot M rather than the Bartley Center. He continued that testing at the mall will end this month and testing at HCC has already begun this past week on Wednesday, April 27.

Testing during this week will be from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. from Wednesday through Sunday. But the following week will pick up the regular hours which are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday then from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

People can make an appointment with Curative online, which is something the state testing did not offer, though

walk-ins are still welcome. People can visit <https://book.curative.com/sites> to make a testing appointment, which is encouraged.

Yurko also mentioned that as HCC is just hosting the program of a mobile trailer, this will not affect the campus’ protocols or guidelines as the two are unrelated.

HCC currently requires COVID-19 vaccination for students, staff, and personnel on campus through the summer and the upcoming fall semester. HCC has announced that it be lifting their mask mandate on May 20, the end of the semester. For more information on the testing site, people can visit Curative’s website.

