

Tacoma-Pierce County COVID-19 Variance Application Moving from Phase 1 to Phase 2 Supplemental Response

June 5, 2020



Pierce County



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Introduction

This supplement is provided in response to four questions Department of Health asked on June 4.

Daily Contacts

We started daily contacts of people under isolation and quarantine and it has been progressing well. We reached out to 100% of cases and contacts daily (see Table 1 and Table 2).

Table 1

Contacts (quarantined)					
Date	Number of Contacts	Number of Attempted Contacts	% Contacted	Responses Received	% Responses Received
June 1 ¹	*	*	*	*	*
June 2	11	11	100%	10	90%
June 3	34	34	100%	26	76%
June 4	60	60	100%	42	70%

Table 2

Cases (isolated)					
Date	Number of Cases	Number of Attempted Contacts	% Contacted	Responses Received	% Responses Received
June 1 ¹	*	*	*	*	*
June 2	3	3	100%	3	100%
June 3	18	18	100%	14	78%
June 4	25	25	100%	18	72%

Health Department staff onboarded 27 new staff and Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers this week to help with case and contact investigations. This work is part of their caseload and we're training these staff on how to make these calls/texts. After completing these calls/texts for several days, we've identified ways to improve responses. We plan to make active monitoring calls/texts in the morning, and then follow-up in the afternoon if we've received no response. Additionally, for large families, we will ask for additional phone numbers in case the designated person cannot be reached.

The number of contacts will increase geometrically as new cases are added. We look forward to the capacity in the CREST system to initiate texts. We will follow up with cases and contacts who do not respond to the text.

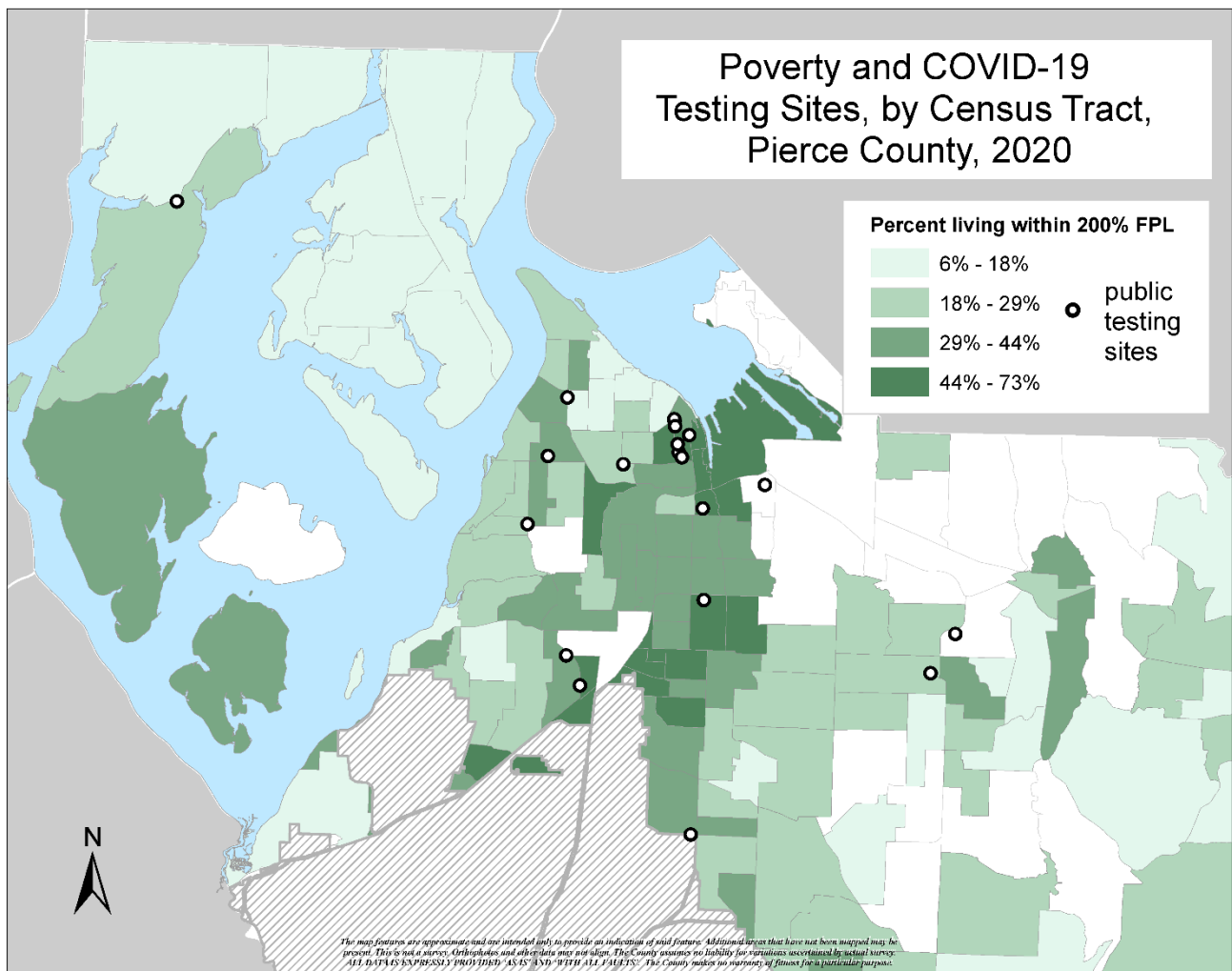
¹ On June 1, during case and contact investigation we notified people about the daily monitoring requirements.

Testing

Figure 1 shows the percent of people living within 200% of the Federal Poverty Level by census tract. The darker shades of green show a higher percent of people in poverty. The dots show locations of facilities that offer free COVID-19 testing to residents who are low-income, uninsured or under-insured.

We continue to focus on expanding access to testing both geographically and to support testing in populations disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. We are using CARES funding to enter into agreements with local health systems to expand capacity to better serve all individuals regardless of ability to pay. This will involve expanding capacity at existing facilities and provide mobile outreach testing at sites of greatest need. In addition, Pierce County Department of Emergency Management plans to purchase and staff mobile testing trailers to conduct community testing events.

Figure 1



Home Isolation and Quarantine Support

We are negotiating a contract with Sea Mar to support persons in home quarantine and isolation. We already contract with Sea Mar to provide these types of services for our community. To further meet our community's COVID-19 needs, we're proposing the following scope of work. We have a meeting with Sea Mar and Pierce County Finance on June 5, 2020 to discuss contract specifics. Sea Mar is uniquely qualified to provide these resources because of their Community Health Action Team (CHAT) and Elevate Health program that help clients navigate social services (housing, food, etc.) and complex behavioral and mental health care. See brochure for more information.

Resources for persons in home isolation and quarantine.

- Provide resources to persons under home isolation or quarantine with needed services they cannot otherwise obtain without going out for on their own (e.g. physical resources like food, infection control, medications, healthcare access, human care, behavioral and mental health, accommodations, income, linkage to stable resources, etc.).
- Health Department will provide name and contact information to Sea Mar for all case and contact investigations that opt in for additional services.
- Sea Mar must attempt first contact to person under home isolation or quarantine within 24 hours of receiving contact from the Health Department.
- Sea Mar will attempt to contact persons three times over the next 5 days.
- Provide weekly report to the Health Department with names and number of people contacted, how many times they were contacted, and resources (if any) provided to each person.
- If persons are no longer able to isolate and quarantine at home, coordinate with the care coordination team for placement at the temporary care center or other isolation and quarantine facility.

Negative Test Results

We are working with DOH to determine the most efficient and sustainable way to manage the negative reports that are not being sent electronically to the state. We track the number of negative COVID-19 tests by type on a weekly basis from local facilities that are not otherwise being reported to the state through WDRS. Currently, we have at least one round of testing data from four local facilities conducting tests (CHI Franciscan, Kroger, Key Medical Center and Madigan Hospital); one additional facility (Walgreens in North Tacoma) directly faxes all negative results to us. The Health Department's ICS laboratory group is also developing an agreement with Community Health Care clinics for the same testing data.

We also use the negative test results line-listing provided by DOH to examine which labs are currently reporting negatives to the state to 1) ensure no overlap with our external lab tracking and 2) identify any additional sites conducting testing that we need to follow-up on in a more rigorous manner and promote on our website. This process will continue until the WDRS testing backlog has been resolved. At that point we will routinely share the official testing numbers from WDRS plus the known negatives through our local surveillance system.