

THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
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**MAYOR DE BLASIO LAUNCHES CITYWIDE ANTIBODY SURVEY**

*Appointment-only antibody testing will be offered in Morrisania, East New York, Upper Manhattan, Concord, and Long Island City beginning next week*

**NEW YORK**—Mayor Bill de Blasio today announced expanded antibody testing for New Yorkers. Through a partnership with BioReference labs, the City will conduct its own antibody survey at community testing sites in the five boroughs to better understand the spread of COVID-19. The survey will test approximately 70,000 New Yorkers over an initial two-week period, with the capacity to administer up to 5,000 tests per day.

"So many New Yorkers are wondering whether they've had the virus, or if they've exposed their own families," said **Mayor Bill de Blasio** "While antibody tests are not a fix-all solution, they will give our communities the knowledge they need to help us defeat this virus together."

BioReference is supporting the city in its epidemiology studies of the presence of COVID-19 throughout large segments of the New York City population," said **Jon R. Cohen, M.D., Executive Chairman of BioReference Laboratories**. "For New York, a city that has been seriously impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, this type of information will be of great value in helping healthcare professionals to analyze the presence and progression of the disease in order to identify at risk populations for possible early intervention."

**Antibody Tests**

Beginning next week, antibody testing will be offered on an appointment-only basis for approximately two weeks in the Morrisania, East New York, Upper Manhattan, Concord, and Long Island City. Scheduling will open this Friday by dedicated hotline, and individual test results will be available in 24-48 hours.

Through a partnership with the US Department of Health and Human Services and CDC, the City will also administer 140,000 antibody tests for healthcare workers and first responders across FDNY, DOC, NYPD, and hospitals citywide. Through a separate initiative, NYC Health + Hospitals has now tested over 8,000 healthcare workers for antibodies across its 11 hospitals.

**Phone-a-Clinician Hotline at 844-NYC-4NYC**

To expand access to care for New Yorkers who have symptoms or questions about COVID-19, NYC Health + Hospitals will continue to grow the capacity of its free Phone-a-Clinician Hotline at 844-NYC-4NYC to be able to handle 120,000 calls a month. With this expansion, Health + Hospitals will aim to provide 16,000 tele-visits to New Yorkers a week via the hotline,

accounting for roughly 80 percent of the City's ambulatory visits. NYC Health + Hospitals has also now completed 60,000 billable H+H Tele-health visits at more than 300 clinics citywide since beginning of crisis.

**Support for Survivors of Domestic and Gender-Based Violence**

The Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV) will convene a COVID-19 response work group to prevent acts of domestic gender-based violence and support survivors during the pandemic.

The work group will engage a diverse group of 20 providers representing multi-disciplinary services for survivors across the City including shelter, legal services, counseling and mental health services. Providers from both small and large community-based organizations will have representation in the working group, with an emphasis on those serving diverse communities citywide.

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