

AD HOC COVID

MOTION

The emergence of the Omicron coronavirus variant has led to a winter surge breaking the U.S. record for most cases reported in a single day. Despite Omicron being roughly one-third less likely to cause hospitalizations compared to the Delta variant, it has proven more transmissible due to the amount of time it lingers in the air and other factors. The surging transmission of this highly mutated variant has led to a disruption in City services, cancelled flights, closed businesses, and overrun testing centers. This increased demand for testing has highlighted the shortage of walk-up testing sites with no appointment required. Many communities have been disproportionately affected by this shortage due a lack of resources including transportation, internet access, or an understanding of technology.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) it is vital that persons with signs or symptoms of COVID-19 have diagnostic testing in order to disrupt further transmission of the virus. Increased testing for symptomatic individuals and those who have been exposed to the virus plays a key role in the City's efforts to contain and mitigate the pandemic.

As the City of Los Angeles continues the State of Emergency declaration, testing resources should mirror the same levels present at the peak of the pandemic. While progress has been made with vaccination and booster rates, the production of at-home test kits, and rapid testing, walk-up facilities offering free PCR testing must be prioritized and expanded.

I THEREFORE MOVE to increase our Citywide effort for safe and accessible testing, reduce disparities in the response, including racial and geographic disparities; direct LAFD in coordination with the Emergency Management Department to look into expanding the existing contract with Curative.

I FURTHER MOVE that the General Services Department, with the assistance of the City Attorney, and any other necessary department identify city-owned buildings or properties to be used as additional walk-up sites.

PRESENTED BY: _____



MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilwoman, 7th District

SECONDED BY: _____



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