FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE   **June 26, 2020**
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COVID-19 Community Testing Event in Fredericksburg on June 30, 2020

(Fredericksburg, Va.) – In partnership with the City of Fredericksburg, the Fredericksburg Police Department, the Virginia National Guard, and the Family Life Center, the Rappahannock Area Health District is holding a community testing event on Tuesday, June 30, 2020 to test community members for COVID-19. The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Family Life Center, 400 Bragg Hill Dr, Fredericksburg, VA 22401. There will be 350 tests available at this event.

"We encourage community members to come out and get tested for COVID-19," said Interim District Health Director Dr. Don Stern. "We know that many people with COVID-19 may only show mild symptoms or may not show any symptoms at all. The challenge is that these individuals can still spread the disease to others, some of whom may be at risk for severe illness due to COVID-19, such as the elderly and people with underlying medical conditions. By identifying active cases of COVID-19 through testing, we can provide guidance on isolation from others for a period of time to help interrupt the spread of the virus in our community."

Testing is available at no cost and is open to individuals age 16 and older. You do not have to have symptoms to be tested. The test administered will be the nasal swab that diagnoses active cases of the virus. Antibody testing will not be available at this event.

This will be a drive-thru testing event, though walk-up testing will also be accommodated. Those coming for drive-thru testing should be seated near a window of the vehicle. Those seeking walk-up testing should be mindful of traffic and follow instructions to maintain social distancing at the event. All in attendance are asked to wear a cloth face covering.

The Rappahannock Area Health District will only be providing testing during the event and not medical care or treatment. For those with medical emergencies or severe symptoms, do not wait for this event and please seek medical attention by calling 911.

Community members seeking testing can register in advance by completing the form available at https://j.mp/3fXzToV. Day-of registrations will also be accepted.

For more information on COVID-19 in Virginia, please visit http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus.

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MEDIA NOTE: Limited news media access to the test site is available ONLY by advance request and appointment by contacting Allison Balmes-John (allison.balmes@vdh.virginia.gov). Access will be escorted, for the purposes of limited photography and videography from a distance. These measures are necessary to ensure patient privacy and operational security.