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StarMed Healthcare Media Update re: COVID-19 testing

May 2, 2020

Testing Update

- StarMed is proudly offering COVID-19 combination testing in both Mecklenburg and Onslow Counties in North Carolina, we stand ready and eager to support and serve the community.
- StarMed has tested over 500 patients with the Rapid Antibody test, the percentage of positive results is averaging 5%.

Testing Protocol

- As the spread of the virus escalated and the serious lack of availability of the nasal swab tests grew, we looked for additional resources that were immediately available to help in the battle against this pandemic.
- The goal of the rapid antibody testing is to help flatten the curve and get a better understanding of who has been affected.
- Individuals at higher risk are screened during their Virtual Visit and the Curbside Testing Site is given instructions when to do a nasal swab in addition to fingerpick antibody test. We also reserve the nasal swab test to patients with more recent symptoms whereby the IgM antibody might be too low to detect.
- StarMed is using the antibody test from Premier Biotech. These test were also used for the Stanford Medical School research study that is being performed to determine the proportion of the population that either has or has recovered from COVID-19.
- The rapid antibody testing is not meant to be a substitute for the PCR nasal swab but to serve the immediate need for more testing in combination with the blood test using strict protocols to avoid false negatives. It is a good tool (with up to 98% accuracy) in helping to quickly identify the 15 to 20% of the population who are positive but have no symptoms. We want to identify them so they don't unknowingly expose others.

Frontline Heroes Support

- StarMed has already donated 150 antibody testing kits to local healthcare workers and first responders.
- StarMed will be donating 150 additional antibody testing kits to local first responders and Health Department employees.

Commitment

- As always, our mission, sole focus and total commitment is to serve the community and protect the public health. We are unwavering in our dedication to doing whatever we can to help the health department and community, especially in providing services to the underserved communities in our area.
- StarMed Healthcare is sharing data collaboratively with Stanford Medical School and Wake Forest research programs to assist in their analysis of COVID-19.

For additional information or updates

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