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| <b>DIRECTIVE:</b> | <b>JOB CORPS INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 20-05</b> |
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**TO:** ALL JOB CORPS NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF  
ALL JOB CORPS REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF  
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER DIRECTORS  
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER OPERATORS  
ALL NATIONAL TRAINING AND SUPPORT CONTRACTORS  
ALL OUTREACH, ADMISSIONS, AND CTS CONTRACTORS  
ALL CENTER USERS

**FROM:** DEBRA A. CARR  
Acting National Director  
Office of Job Corps

**SUBJECT:** Influenza Testing on Job Corps Centers

1. **Purpose.** To inform the Job Corps community of the distribution of influenza testing supplies to all the centers and provide guidance on when to conduct student testing.
2. **Background.** In contrast to coronavirus infection which may be asymptomatic or present with a broad range of subtle symptoms, influenza is much more likely to present abruptly with high fever, chills, sore throat, cough, headache, muscle pain and fatigue. Although influenza infection is not currently widespread in the United States, center clinicians should consider testing as an option to distinguish influenza from COVID-19 since antiviral medications are available for influenza. Co-infection with influenza A or B viruses and SARS-CoV-2 can also occur, particularly in patients with severe respiratory disease.

In October 2020, Job Corps delivered one or more Abbott ID NOW point-of-care test devices to each center to enable COVID-19 infection testing. These testing devices are also capable of testing for influenza using influenza reagents; therefore, Job Corps has procured and is shipping influenza reagents to all centers. This will give each center the ability to perform point-of-care (POC) diagnostic testing for influenza A and B.

3. **Action.** All students with even mild symptoms should first be tested for COVID-19 before being tested for influenza. Those who test negative, but have symptoms consistent with influenza, may be tested for influenza after executing an influenza testing consent form. Influenza testing is particularly recommended if influenza is present in the surrounding community. Consult with center health professionals and Humanitas for additional guidance on when students should be tested for influenza. Also, see Job Corps Information Notice No. 20-01 "Influenza Update for the 2020-2021 Season," released on September 15, 2020, providing guidance on centers contacting their state and/or local

health departments to inquire if the influenza vaccine is available for administration on or off center, encouraging students and staff to receive an influenza vaccine, and tips for controlling the spread of influenza on campus.

For information on how to conduct influenza tests using the provided equipment and supplies, visit the MCI Diagnostics (MCI) website at [www.mcidiagnostics.com](http://www.mcidiagnostics.com). MCI is Job Corps' diagnostic testing service. Once on the website, click on "Government Contracting," and then the "Department of Labor" tab. Scroll down the page and click on "COVID-19 and Influenza Training" tab to view the training videos "Anterior Nares Specimen Collection" and "Abbott ID NOW (COVID-19 and Influenza)." Job Corps does not require tracking and reporting of influenza tests. For questions related to influenza testing procedures, please contact Latasha Hill at MCI by calling (918) 744-1001 or Kathleen Henderson at (918) 955-1671.

4. Effective Date. January 28, 2021.
5. Inquiries. Inquiries about this Information Notice should be directed to Lawrence Lyford in Job Corps' national office at [lyford.lawrence@dol.gov](mailto:lyford.lawrence@dol.gov).

Attachment

Influenza Testing Consent Form