El Dorado County Covid-19 Testing Survey
Results Summary
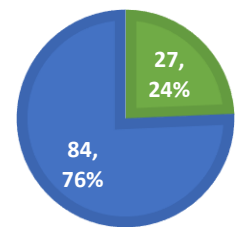Prepared by El Dorado County Public Health Division, March 2021

Overview

The survey was created using Survey Monkey and promoted on El Dorado County's social media on February 25, 2021 by our Director of Comminutions and Outreach. The purpose of the survey was to collect primary quantitative and qualitative health data from El Dorado County residents with the goal of better understanding community members' experience with covid-19 testing.
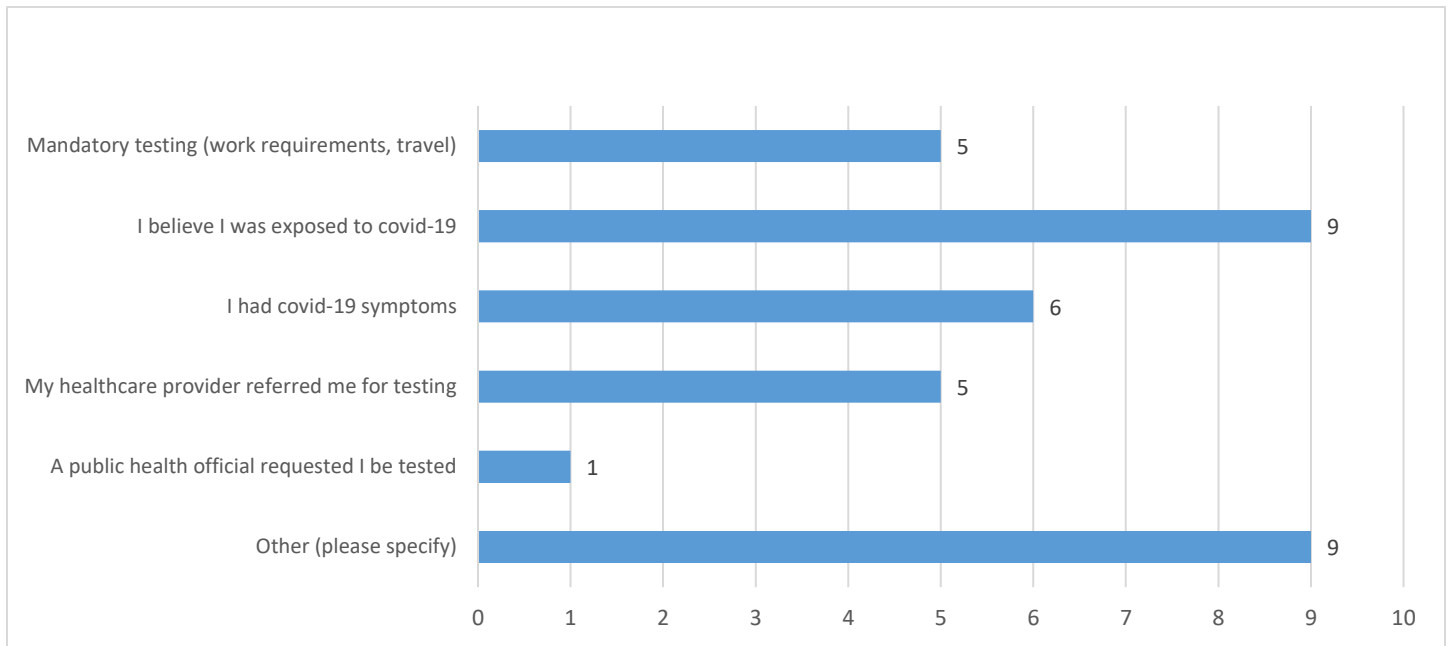
Summary:

- 111 community members responded to the survey.

- Of the respondents, 24% have been tested for active covid-19 disease.

- The #1 reason why a respondent got tested for active covid-19 disease was because they believed they were exposed to covid-19.

- Respondents experienced the following barriers when getting tested:

    1. Difficulty finding a place to get tested (5)

    2. Difficulty finding available appointments (4)

    3. I was told I didn't need to get a covid test (2)

    4. Other: Cost (1), test error (1)

- The #1 reason why a respondent had not gotten tested for active covid-19 disease was "I haven't felt sick" followed by "I didn't know where to go for testing".

- When asked "Why do you think other people (friends and family) do not want to get a test for active covid-19?" the top two reasons included:

    1. They've never knowingly been around someone with covid-19, so they felt they've never needed to get tested

    2. They've never had symptoms of covid-19, so they felt they've never needed to get tested

- Suggestions made by respondents to make the testing process easier and more accessible included:

    o Add more testing sites and increasing local availability (more days of the week)

    o Provide more information on when or when not to test

    o Provide more "open" testing sites

    o Provide free testing

    o Make it easier to find testing sites and schedule appointments

    o Offer a drive thru site

    o Provide at home self-tests

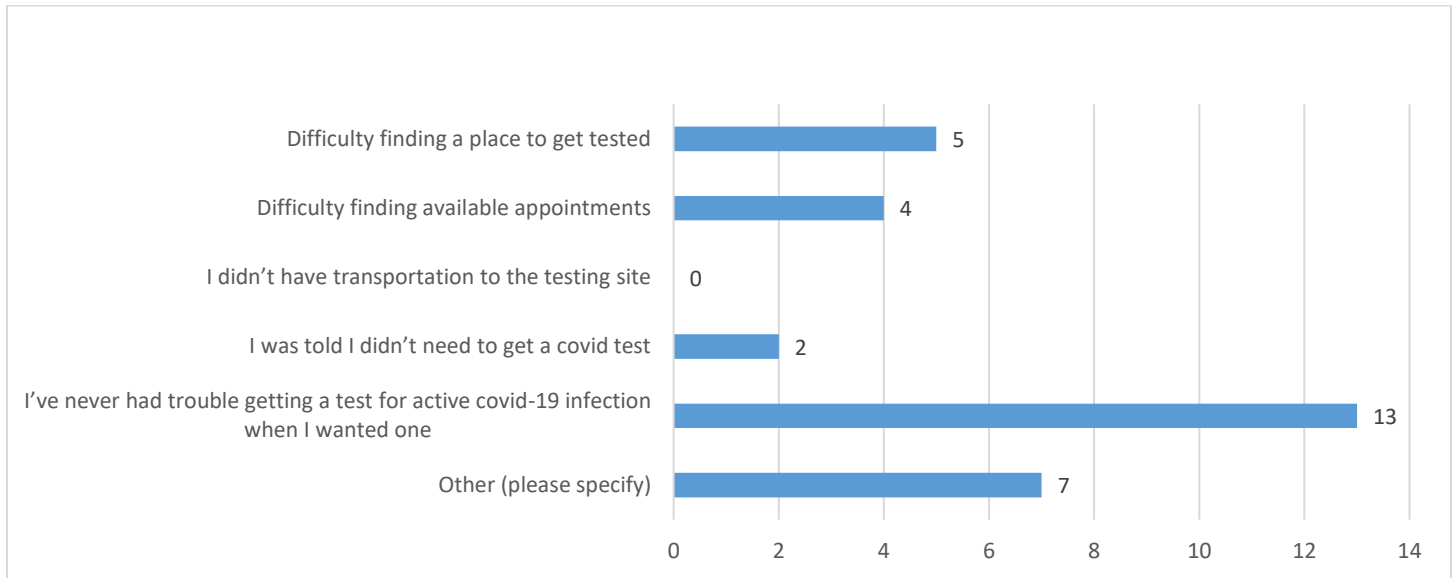**HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TESTED FOR ACTIVE COVID-19 DISEASE?**

■ Yes ■ No

27, 24%

84, 76%

What were some of the reasons you got tested? Select all that apply.

Reason	Count
Mandatory testing (work requirements, travel)	5
I believe I was exposed to covid-19	9
I had covid-19 symptoms	6
My healthcare provider referred me for testing	5
A public health official requested I be tested	1
Other (please specify)	9

Other (please specify):
1. I had pneumonia so they tested me at the ER
2. In order to take my daughter to college in another state
3. I wanted to know because if I had already had covid I would be emboldened to never wear a mask again.
4. After hospital visit
5. It was available
6. Visiting family that has cancer, didn't want to risk getting her sick.
7. prior to visiting at risk family member
8. Visiting family
9. Curiosity

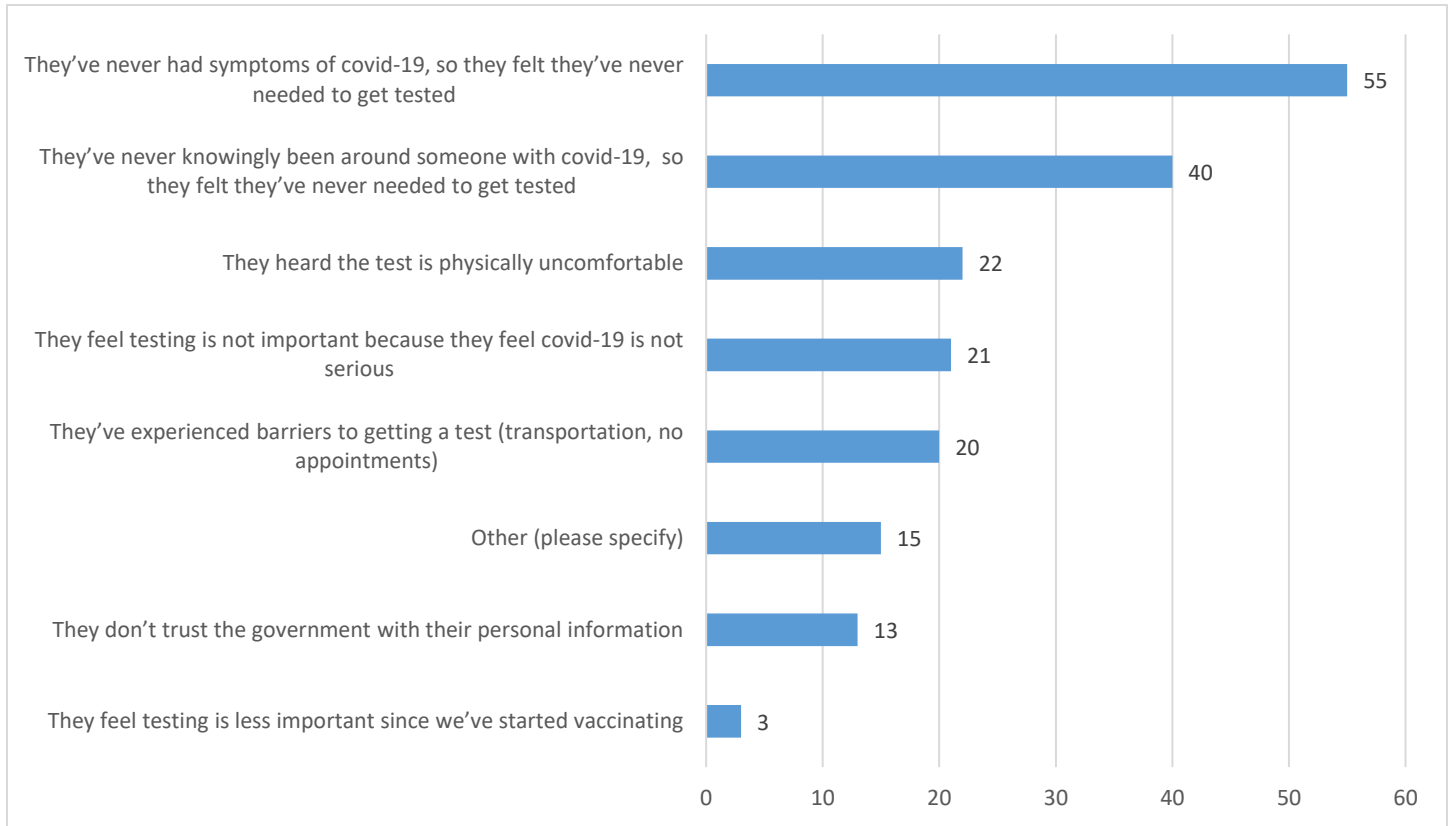## Did you encounter any barriers when you got tested for covid-19? Select all that apply.

Barrier	Count
Difficulty finding a place to get tested	5
Difficulty finding available appointments	4
I didn't have transportation to the testing site	0
I was told I didn't need to get a covid test	2
I've never had trouble getting a test for active covid-19 infection when I wanted one	13
Other (please specify)	7

Other (please specify)
1. They gave me a test for Covid when they were testing for my pneumonia
2. Kaiser was great. Also had test for work at Shingle Springs Health and Wellness Center. Both were knowledgeable, quick and respectful
3. I was told there was an error with my test and then did not get results for 8 days when I had been told I'd receive them in 2-3
4. Very expensive! 150.00 per test.
5. There was very low demand for testing when I got tested (which is part of the reason I got tested - it wasn't mandatory, it was nice to have. I was 99.99% certain I hadn't been exposed.)
6. Marshall Hospital Early 2020
7. Marshall Hospital handled the test; it was part of the pre-op procedure.

Why have you not gotten tested for covid-19? Select all that apply.

Reason	Percentage
I haven't felt sick	54%
Other (please specify)	15%
I didn't know where to go for testing	7%
I was told or believed testing was not available	6%
I don't trust the government with my personal information	5%
I have felt sick, but didn't feel sick enough to get tested	5%
I was worried about not being able to pay	2%
I am homebound and unable to leave my home to go to a testing…	1%
The online registration process is too difficult and requires too…	1%
I haven't been able to take time off of work for testing	1%
I was told by a healthcare provider to self-quarantine instead of…	1%
I don't have a computer and/or reliable Internet access to make an…	0%
I didn't have someone to watch my children/other people in my…	0%
I haven't had transportation to or from a testing location	0%

Other (please specify)
Strict sheltering in place since March 2020. I have an autoimmune disease and have not exposed myself to anyone.
I don't need a test because I'm sick. Insane
I was sick before there was any test available
Uninformed as to availability
I was certain I had covid and as mild as it is I did not want to add to the positive test results
There is no benefit to testing for an illness with such a great survival rate, when there is no change in the course of treatment no matter the results. Additionally the results of the testing is not very reliable and is being used to shut down and destroy the economy.
Presently with school district and exposed twice for symptoms with one confirmed student case. Got negative case while out on quarantine as husband at risk. During off time scheduled maderna 1st and 2nd vaccines. Haven't received bill or heard of if any. Medical costs outrageous. Even with insurance. Pay outrageous monthly amounts already. Dislike bills if any coming in. My last year before retirement....horrific experiences.😱
Don't see the point.
The system is so confusing and it became unclear whether health insurance would cover the costs or not. It never felt like the county had very many testing sites and never could figure out if you could go to Sacramento county. One day a week option in Tahoe is not a good option since that's 1.5 hours a way for some of us.
Have not been exposed by anyone testing positive so haven't felt the need. Have stayed safe in mask and distancing and not being in groups.
Hard to find a place that will test young kids without symptoms. Also not clear if my insurance will cover the cost.
I know how to keep myself clean and stay away from people if/when I feel sick
Not been advised of exposure to anyone positive
Only tests a moment in time and not useful info because of that

Why do you think other people (friends and family) do not want to get a test for active covid-19? Select all that apply.

Response	Count
They've never had symptoms of covid-19, so they felt they've never needed to get tested	55
They've never knowingly been around someone with covid-19, so they felt they've never needed to get tested	40
They heard the test is physically uncomfortable	22
They feel testing is not important because they feel covid-19 is not serious	21
They've experienced barriers to getting a test (transportation, no appointments)	20
Other (please specify)	15
They don't trust the government with their personal information	13
They feel testing is less important since we've started vaccinating	3

Other (please specify)
They feel it's a personal decision. If they're sick they'll stay home. Trillions of virus out there of different kinds. That kill millions every year!
The components that are in the Covid vaccine are terrible I do not want them in my body my families body or anyone that I know. I will definitely consider taking Hydro Clore Quinn but only that.
The threshold of the tests has been off from the start and many doctors have said this, Fauchi included. Too many false positives, too many lies.
My family and friends have been tested when they felt sick or were exposed to someone who was sick
My husband was tested because he was sick. He didn't have COVID-19. I've never felt sick so why would I take the test?
They failed to see a benefit to it
Test sites are not open at times they could go
They are not sick
They've done really well at avoiding exposures.
Keep safe protocols.
They watch too much Fox News with false information
All kinds of reasons.   But mostly it is just one moment in time
They were fairly certain they did have Covid and didn't think a test was necessary to confirm.

Are there any additional comments you would like to provide regarding COVID-19 testing in El Dorado County? Please include any suggestions to make the testing process easier and more accessible.

"More across the board standards for when or when not to test. It's confusing and irritating. We hear new information daily. It's hard to tell what's true."

"Perhaps more "open" testing and not just if you have been exposed or have severe symptoms."

"Needs to be 20.00 or less, threshold of tests needs to be adjusted correctly, and they need to be non-evasive. There are saliva tests and other tests that don't have to go up so high in the nose. Results within 48 hours as well would be nice."

"Getting tested is very expensive. If testing was free I would participate."

"Please let seniors know where they can go for tests and vaccinations"

"Unless you have symptoms one does not qualify. I tried but was rejected during the pre-assessment questions. I don't go out for that reason."

After I get the vaccination I'd like to get a test for antibodies to be assured that the vaccine worked for me before assuming I'm protected. Will a covid antibody test be available for residents in the summer/fall? Thanks

When the schools went back in person it would have been nice for them to make testing more quickly available to families. Telling people to go to their primary caregivers was not the best option since you then have to jump hoops with them too. It would have been nice to have an easy county drive through option.

It's was difficult to find testing in ED county. I used my sister's address in Sac to get tested a few times. For a while there was only one test site that I could find and it didn't appear to be able to test young children - which we needed

"Make it clearer on your website the age ranges that each location will test. Denote who tests only for symptoms vs anyone"

"Need more"

"The test I had at Marshall Hospital still gives me nightmares. It was so uncomfortable and painful that I've resisted getting another test even though I should have been tested several times since. The issue I have with the current testing sites/models is that it's been difficult to get an appointment, it's difficult to find out what testing method is used (I don't ever want the method Marshall Medical uses ever ever again), and it's difficult to find out when you'll get the results. If e.g. you'll be traveling and you need the results within a certain timeframe before boarding the flight, the current publicly available testing options cannot give you an accurate time of when you'll have your results."

The online Covid testing is hard to maneuver around, especially for elderly people. I was able to get an appointment for our Covid vaccines through a doctor's office in Folsom within a week and going tomorrow to get our second vaccines. There online sign up was simple and easy to sign up for.

Drive through sites

"WHY get tested might be a PSA. If I don't feel sick nor knowingly come in contact with anyone who has tested positive, why would I consider getting tested?"

"Availability in ED County is very limited for testing. Both times tested had to drive to Placer County"

Testing is not easy to find or schedule, more information about cost, sites, etc. would be helpful

Offer free testing to everyone! With or without symptoms. I've called Kaiser and been told no for testing. For various reasons.

If there were a self at-home test we could do daily, that would be useful info

Testing available locally more days of the week. Letting people know asymptotic testing is available now.