FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 30, 2020

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS FOR COVID-19 TESTING

ALBANY, GA-Southwest Public Health District this weekend will offer specimen collection for COVID-19 testing in Dougherty, Thomas, Grady and Decatur Counties. This free service is available by appointment to individuals in the following categories, regardless of county of residence:

- Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19
- Adults age 60 or older
- Caregiver for elderly (age 60 or older)
- Caregiver for immune compromised person
- First responder who is critical to the epidemic response
- Healthcare worker
- Patient with serious chronic medical condition such as heart disease, diabetes, or lung disease
- Immune compromised patients
- Anyone who works or lives in congregate setting
- Employees who need testing to return to work

Individuals who want to be tested can contact the call center from 8am to 7pm, Monday through Friday and 8:30am to 5pm Saturday to determine if they are eligible for an appointment. Specimen collection will be done 9am to noon on Saturday in Dougherty, Thomas and Grady Counties and 9am to noon Sunday in Decatur County, said Dr. Charles Ruis, District Health Director for Southwest Public Health District 8-2. Beginning Monday, the weekday schedule will resume with collections in done 8:30am to 5pm Monday-Friday in Dougherty, Thomas, and Mitchell Counties.

The call center hotline is (229) 352-6567.
