



For more information contact the
Belton Area Chamber of Commerce
254-939-3551

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Belton, Texas
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Small Business COVID-19 Rapid Testing Program available from Belton Area Chamber of Commerce

The Belton Area Chamber of Commerce, in coordination with the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), is participating in a program to distribute BinaxNow rapid COVID-19 tests to small businesses in our community.

There is no charge for participation in this program, and all testing supplies will be provided free of charge to eligible local small businesses. The businesses are required to be trained on proper testing protocols, to include test administration and reporting of results as required by law.

As part of the Nation's Coronavirus Testing Strategy, the United States Health and Human Services Department has allocated a total of 150 million Abbott Labs BinaxNow rapid test kits. The state of Texas has begun receiving its weekly allotment of these tests for utilization in settings that need rapid, low-tech testing. These tools were specifically intended to support critical infrastructure and surveillance screening in congregate settings, such as small businesses. TDEM has been directed to ensure the effective distribution of these kits to Chambers of Commerce in Texas to further this national effort.

"We are excited about this opportunity to provide rapid testing kits to our local small businesses," said Randy Pittenger, President/CEO of the Belton Chamber. "This program will provide our local small businesses another tool to help them protect staff and customers, while staying open to provide services to our community."

Participating businesses will identify staff members to be trained to administer the tests and report the results as well as determining the manner that the voluntary testing will be conducted for their employees. All testing of employees must be voluntary and not a condition of employment. Businesses will also be responsible for establishing appropriate policies for addressing positive Covid-19 test results of their employees, including the notification of local health departments.

A limited number of testing kits are available for Belton Area Chamber of Commerce member businesses. If interested in participating, contact Dawn Orange at the Chamber office.

For more information about the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce members and services, go to www.beltonchamber.com or contact the Chamber at info@beltonchamber.com or 254-939-3551.

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