**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Premier Community HealthCare Opens FREE COVID-19 Drive-Thru Testing Sites**

**Pasco and Hernando Counties, Fla., Thursday, May 28, 2020** – Premier Community HealthCare has expanded its coronavirus (COVID-19) testing capabilities with drive-thru testing, providing a safe and efficient option for community members. Drive-thru testing is by appointment only and is available free of charge to all Pasco and Hernando county residents, regardless of age or symptoms.

To ensure patient and employee safety, all patients will remain in their vehicles throughout the testing process to minimize exposure to potential infection. An anterior naris (nasal swab) specimen, which is the common nasal test used to determine if someone is infected with COVID-19, will be collected during the process.

“With the implementation of our drive-thru testing, we are able to identify those in our communities who may have the virus more quickly and provide them with care, while reducing the likelihood of its spread,” said Dinah Grant, RN, nursing director at Premier Community HealthCare.

Premier’s COVID-19 drive-thru testing sites will open at the following Pasco and Hernando county locations beginning this June:

**Pasco County: Dade City Testing Lot**

* Address: 14105 5th St., Dade City, FL 33525
* Schedule: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, starting June 9, 2020 | 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

**Hernando County: Brooksville Family Health Center**

* Address: 300 S. Main St., Brooksville, FL 34601
* Schedule: Thursdays and Fridays, starting June 11, 2020 | 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

To request an appointment, community residents should call 352-518-2000 or visit [www.premierhc.org](http://www.premierhc.org).There will be no out-of-pocket costs for testing and no one will be turned away based on their insurance status. Testing results will be available within 3-5 days via telephone and Premier’s patient portal. All patients are advised to self-quarantine until results are confirmed.

During Premier’s drive-thru testing, patients will also have the opportunity to speak with health center staff to:

* Understand and identify COVID-19 symptoms
* Learn what precautions to take while waiting for test results
* Receive instructions on how to treat illness at home and keep others safe from virus exposure
* Help manage chronic conditions, like asthma and diabetes, while sheltering in place
* Get connected to additional health center services offered by Premier

Community health centers, like Premier, are on the front lines combating COVID-19 and providing essential care to those in need. These centers serve the nation’s most vulnerable individuals and families, including people experiencing homelessness, agricultural workers, residents of public housing, and veterans. “Health Centers have always played a critical role in our communities, by ensuring access and affordable care,” said Joey Resnick, Chief Executive Officer of Premier Community HealthCare. “Right now, we have a list of local communities that have put in requests for our help. As long as the need exists for Premier to assist in this effort, we will be here.”

For more information about Premier and its mission, visit [www.premierhc.org](http://www.premierhc.org).

*Premier Community HealthCare Group is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that operates Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC’s) dedicated to providing accessible healthcare for all. With 10 conveniently located offices throughout Pasco County to serve patients, Premier provides a full range of comprehensive primary care medical services that include Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Dental, Behavioral Health, Obstetrics and Gynecology. Premier has been committed to serving the medically underserved areas with its long-standing presence in Pasco County since 1979. Premier is one of more than 1,400 community health centers nationwide created by federal legislation that provides some funding for the facilities. The centers are required by law to cater to medically underserved populations.*

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