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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kanawha-Charleston Health Department Adopts New Testing Guidelines Due to Federal and State Budget Cuts; New Guidelines for COVID-19 PCR Testing Start July 1

CHARLESTON, WV –With the exhaustion of Federal funding for COVID-19 testing, officials at the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department announced today that it will make changes to its testing practices by the end of the month.

“Many testing locations throughout the state transitioned to billing private insurance a month ago,” said Dr. Steven Eshenaur, KCHD Health Officer and Executive Director. “While we were very fortunate—working with local and state partners—to be able to extend free COVID-19 PCR testing a few more weeks, we realized it just is not sustainable without additional funding at the Federal level,” Dr. Eshenaur continued.

Beginning July 1, KCHD will bill patients’ insurance for COVID-19 PCR testing. Alternatively, people may request a free COVID-19 test kit for at-home use.

Testing will be by appointment only and can be arranged by calling (304) 348-8080. Appointments are available from 8:00 am until 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Walk-in service is still available during those hours for those who only want the home test kit.

For more information on testing, vaccines, and all other public health services please visit www.kchdvw.org or call the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department at (304) 348-8080.