

Norwalk^eNow

The Official Community Publication of Norwalk, California
November 2023, Volume 44, #11 • @cityofnorwalkca



Norwalk Confirms Economic Development Opportunities Plan

On October 17, 2023, Norwalk City Council approved the updated Economic Development Opportunities Plan.



In 2018, City Council gave the green light to the original plan for boosting our city's economy. This plan included info about our population and markets and showed us which areas could be great for future growth.

Fast forward to 2023, the updated plan aligns with the evolving landscape in Norwalk. The City's economic strategy has been updated to reflect current and future developments in 10 economic nodes. The

plan harnessed market data and included community involvement through 17 community meetings.

In terms of what's happening in Norwalk, there is a growing demand for residences that double as remote workspaces. In addition, people are relying more on home-based deliveries for food and products for their everyday needs.

The City Council remains committed to a vibrant future for our community. Stay tuned for more updates!

Norwalk's State of the City

On Friday, October 20, the City of Norwalk hosted its annual State of the City Address at the Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex. Mayor Ana Valencia provided an update on public safety, programs and services, infrastructure, and parks improvements. To view Norwalk's State of the City Address, visit the City's Youtube channel. The City of Norwalk is proud to announce that proceeds will be donated to a local non-profit organization. Thank you to all community members and partners who supported the event!



Read more about Captain Conti on page 3...

Green Growth Leads Norwalk Forward



On October 3, 2023, Norwalk City Council approved the Sustainability Plan, aligning with their Strategic Goal #4 to support community sustainability and climate resilience.

This plan addresses environmental challenges, like carbon emissions and pollution, by enhancing public transportation, green building standards, renewable energy integration, and waste reduction.

Sustainability positively impacts the local economy by attracting businesses, encouraging innovation, and generating jobs in emerging sectors,

ensuring equitable resource access and better public health.

Norwalk's accomplishments include a Gold Level Award for a 12% greenhouse gas reduction and the introduction of nine electric buses via Federal Transit Administration grants. We're also advancing transportation infrastructure, EV charging, and transit-oriented development.

Norwalk is committed to a greener, more sustainable future, promoting well-being and economic growth.

Fall Community Forum

Thursday, November 2 • 6pm • Sara Mendez Park

Looking for a fun family event that is also informative? Join us for the Hybrid Community Forum on Thursday, November 2nd at Sara Mendez Park Recreation Center.

Get updates on public safety, parks, and streets while your kids have fun with arts &



crafts. The meeting will also be available via Zoom (Meeting ID 874 9525 9301) for those who cannot attend in person. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to learn about your city! For more information, please call 562-929-5735.

NTS Electric Bus Initiative Powers a Greener Future

The Norwalk Transit System (NTS) has made significant progress in its Bus Electrification Program, taking a crucial step towards a greener future by introducing the first two Battery Electric Buses (BEBs) in Phase 2. In 2022, the City Council approved an agreement, allocating about \$5,370,176 for five BEBs and four ChargePoint CPE250 bus chargers, ushering in a more sustainable era for Norwalk.

The positive impact of this initiative is already evident on Norwalk's streets, as the initial two BEBs quietly traverse the city, reducing both emissions and noise pollution. Three more BEBs are expected in Fall 2024, further advancing Norwalk's sustainability goals.

NTS is not only investing in environmentally-friendly buses and chargers but also working on enhancing charging accessibility and convenience. They've applied for Southern California Edison's Charge Ready Program for Phase II, aiming to expand the charging infrastructure with four additional ChargePoint chargers.

With these efforts underway, Norwalk's residents can take pride in their city's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint and enhancing overall quality of life. Norwalk is setting a leading example, steering towards a brighter, more eco-conscious future.



Norwalk City Council

Mayor Ana Valencia Vice Mayor Margarita L. Rios
Councilmember Tony Ayala
Councilmember Jennifer Perez
Councilmember Rick Ramirez

Norwalk City Hall Hours of Operation

Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Alternating Fridays 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

562-929-5700

City of Norwalk
12700 Norwalk Blvd.
Norwalk, CA 90650

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To Postal Patron

Be Ready to Catch the Rain!

Rain Barrels have many benefits. They divert water from municipal storm drain systems, conserve a vital natural resource, protect our ocean from runoff pollution and help you save money by reducing water bills. Norwalk Municipal Water, along with Golden State and Liberty Utilities, are hosting a one-day rain barrel distribution event. The event will be on Saturday, November 4, from 9 a.m. to noon, at Norwalk City Hall (12700 Norwalk Blvd.). Customers will be given the opportunity to easily pre-order a rain barrel and pick it up from the location above. The cost of the rain barrel is \$20 plus tax. Maximum 2 rain barrels per household. For more information, please call 919-602-6316 or email info@rainbarrelsintl.com.



Residents of Norwalk

FREE MULCH/COMPOST

AthensServices.com

(888) 338-6100



Saturday, November 18
8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Norwalk City Hall Parking Lot
12700 Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650

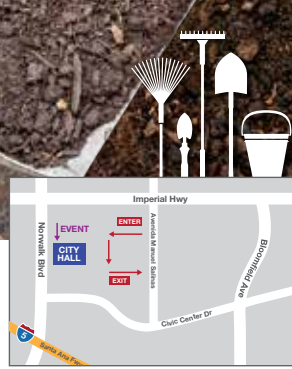
Athens' compost is a blend of organics material including a mix of green waste, wood waste, and food scraps.* Our compost is OMRI Listed® and licensed by the California Department of Food and Agriculture. *May contain small particles of glass.

▶ NORWALK RESIDENTS ONLY (ID OR BILL REQUIRED)

▶ SELF-SERVICE EVENT - BRING SHOVELS, DOLLY, AND STURDY CONTAINERS

▶ DRIVE UP ONLY (NO WALK-INS)

Participation in the event and all items accepted are at your own risk. It is the attendees' responsibility to practice safe lifting and take all protective measures to guard against injury or any other loss.



▶ WHILE SUPPLIES LAST (30 GALLON LIMIT FIRST HOUR)

▶ NO CONTAINER LARGER THAN 32 GALLONS DUE TO SAFETY & WEIGHT CONCERNS

▶ GLOVES AND EYE PROTECTION RECOMMENDED

ENERGY corner

SoCalGas Assistance Fund

If residents are having difficulty paying their natural gas bill, the Gas Assistance Fund (GAF) may be able to provide residents with a one-time grant for the amount of the gas bill, not to exceed \$400.00. If the eligible applicant is age 55+ or has an older adult (55+) living in the household, an additional \$100 is available for a maximum grant of up to \$500. Additionally, those facing certain financial hardships may be eligible for extra grant funding.

For more information, please visit Socalgas.com.

SoCal Edison Payment Plans

Do you need help paying your bill? Southern California Edison (SCE) has several options that can assist residents who may need more time or assistance.

SCE offers payment assistance options for customers facing financial challenges. These options include Flexible Payment Arrangements, the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) program, the Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA) program, and the Energy Assistance Fund (EAF).

These programs aim to provide support and relief to help customers manage their energy bills and ensure access to essential electricity services. For details and to apply for assistance, visit sce.com



Keepin' It Norwalk Business Spotlight

Where is your favorite spot to purchase Holiday Desserts?

The nomination period runs from **Sunday, November 1 - Tuesday, November 10**



Construction Corner Section

Be sure to follow us on social media (@cityofnorwalkca) for updates on improvements!

Streets Rehabilitation Project Update

The Local Street Rehabilitation Project has completed concrete improvements for Zone 3, 8, and 19. All damaged curb-gutters and sidewalks have been repaired as well as all corners have been upgraded to ADA compliant ramps. Many neighborhoods will see new asphalt completed by Fall 2023.



Pedal to the Next Level:

166th Street Improvements

Commuters and residents will see the final touches on 166th Street. This project aims to enhance safety and traffic flow on 166th Street from Pioneer Boulevard to Norwalk Boulevard. Commuters and pedestrians will see dedicated bicycle lanes, utilities adjustments, slurry sealing, striping, signage, and traffic loops. This improvement project is a collaboration with the cities of Artesia, Cerritos, and Norwalk.



Fun Around Norwalk

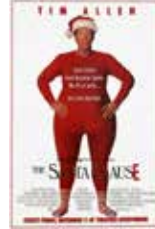
Holiday Movie Night: The Santa Clause

Fri • Nov 17 • 6:30 PM • Free • Ages

Lakeside Park • 11620 Studebaker Rd

Joining us at Holiday Movie Night!

Pre-movie activities will include crafts, field games, photo opportunities in a mini-winter wonderland, concessions sold by our Teen Alliance Program, and food trucks for all to enjoy.



Light up the Season with the Holiday Decor Contest!

Every year, our community comes alive with the warm glow of twinkling lights and festive ornaments as we celebrate the magic of the holidays. To add a touch of friendly competition and festive spirit, the City of Norwalk Community Promotion Commission is thrilled to announce our Annual Holiday Home & Business Decor Contest.

This is an opportunity for residents and businesses to showcase their creativity and spread holiday cheer. The contest features two exciting categories:

Best Display: Residential

Best Display: Interior Business

Participating is easy and fun. Just let your imagination run wild and decorate your home or business with the most dazzling and captivating holiday display. Nominate your home or business anytime between November 27 - December 11 at Norwalk.org/communitycontest.

Once nominations are in, judging will occur from December 16 - 25. Participating homes and businesses must have their lights and decorations visible after 6 PM. Winners are selected based on creativity, originality, and the joy they bring to our community.

Don't miss this chance to make Norwalk shine bright. Join the contest, light up the season, and be part of the holiday magic that defines our wonderful community. For more details, visit Norwalk.org/communitycontest.



Holiday Festival & Tree Lighting Ceremony

Join us for the annual Holiday Festival and Tree Lighting Ceremony taking place on Saturday, December 2, 2023 from 6 – 9 p.m. at the Civic Center Lawn. Along with the tree lighting ceremony, guests will enjoy snowslides, entertainment, food trucks, arts and crafts, game booths, photos with Santa and more! The event is free and open to all ages. The Civic Center Lawn is located at 12700 Norwalk Blvd., in Norwalk.

visit www.norwalk.org/fun or call the Recreation and Park Services Department at (562) 929-5566.



You're invited to Holiday Window Decorating

Nov 26 • 9 am- 5pm • City Hall

The City of Norwalk is hosting its annual holiday window painting event, open to Norwalk families. Participants will work with a local artists to paint windows at City Hall. Art Supplies, morning refreshments, and lunch will be provided.

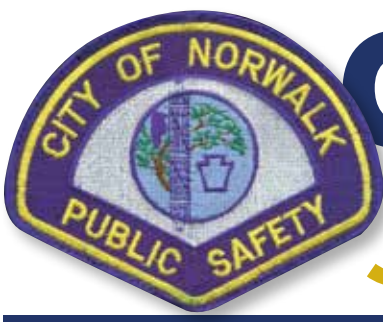
Recommended for families with children 4 years of age or older. Spaces fill quickly. RSVP by Friday, November 10 by contacting Liz Camarena at ecamarena@norwalkca.gov.



Santa's Sleigh Flying to Town

This just in! Our Santa GPS has just alerted us that Santa's sleigh has been spotted in the night sky and he seems to be making his way to Norwalk! The City of Norwalk, in partnership with the Santa Sleigh Foundation, has it on good authority that Santa will be making several stops in select neighborhoods on the following dates: December 7- 9 and 14-16, with a special preview stop at the Holiday Festival on December 2! Families will have the opportunity to take a photo with Santa, Mrs. Claus and their elves. For the Santa stop schedule and the latest updates on Santa's whereabouts, follow us on Instagram at @recnorwalk. For more information, please call us at (562) 929-5702.





COMMUNITY SAFETY ZONE

There's a New Sheriff in Town!

The City of Norwalk would like to welcome the new Norwalk Sheriff's Station Captain, Rick Conti, who took over command of the station in August 2023.

Captain Rick Conti was born and raised in the city of Downey. Captain Conti started with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department in 1993. Prior to being promoted to captain, he worked on a variety of assignments from custody and patrol to K9 handler and SWAT.

In 2018, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and was assigned to South Los Angeles Station where he worked on the community policing team. He then returned to the gang unit where he was responsible for overseeing gang detectives at the Norwalk Sheriff's Station.

His experience, especially on the community policing team, will be important as the city of Norwalk begins a pivotal chapter in our community's safety and well-being.



Central to this effort is the Community Policing Initiative, a comprehensive strategy harmonizing the resources of the Norwalk Sheriff's Station with those of the City's Public Safety Department.

This initiative comprises two crucial elements: the Norwalk Enforcement Team (NET), a specialized unit operating daily, focused on crime suppression as part of their community engagement efforts, and Public Safety's quadrant officers, actively interacting with a diverse range of stakeholders within their quadrant including residents, local schools, faith-based organizations, and businesses.

The collective objective of this Initiative is to effectively address both crime control efforts and quality of life concerns within our city at their source. This collaborative endeavor, envisioned by our city council, strategically addresses the imperatives of crime reduction and overall quality of life enhancement.

NET Team Deputies Recognized For Their Service



The Norwalk City Council recognized the Norwalk Enforcement Team (NET) at the October 17th City Council meeting. NET focuses on specialized assignments for the City of Norwalk and consists of Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputies from the Norwalk Sheriff's Station.

NET Deputies serve in both a proactive and reactive capacity based on on-going needs and issues. These Deputies engage in a variety of activities ranging from executing search warrants to policing hot spots or engaging with the community.

The tasks and responsibilities of NET include a variety of functions such as proactive policing of problem areas, problem identification, intelligence gathering, drafting search warrants, executing search and arrest warrants, probation and parole compliance checks, providing security for Norwalk City events, running and coordinating command posts, assisting

LASD patrol when necessary, assisting the Norwalk Public Safety Officers (PSO's), and assisting specialized LASD units.

NET attends a weekly meeting coordinated by city staff to discuss current nuisance and criminal issues. As a result, NET is very familiar with key issues, the key players, and the problem areas.

As issues arise, NET creates response efforts based on their collected information and available tools. Essentially, NET operates as a sweeping task force for our city that fills the needs of the community based on current issues.

The City of Norwalk's approach to public safety is a unique balance of sworn law enforcement and trained civilian enforcement officers. NET plays an important role in this approach and was recognized for its commitment to keeping our community safe.

Code Compliance Month & Code Compliance Team Recognition



The Norwalk City Council proclaimed October as Code Compliance Month at the October 17th City Council meeting and recognized the Public Safety Department's Code Compliance team for their service and commitment to keeping our community clean and safe.

Code enforcement officers are tasked with several roles within the scope of their duties. A code officer may function as a communicator, educator, mediator, problem solver, and researcher, along with several other duties. Their expertise lies in the comprehensive understanding and application of housing, zoning, and

nuisance codes and city ordinances.

In addition to safeguarding our residents, these officers play a crucial role in maintaining property values. Their efforts in upholding a clean and organized environment contribute to enhancing property worth and the overall visual appeal of our community.

The city of Norwalk's Public Safety Code Compliance team are essential figures in our city, ensuring the safety and well-being of residents and businesses. They're involved in enforcing codes pertaining to building safety, sanitation, and public health, acting as guardians against potential hazards.

Save the Date
Pet Adoption Showcase
Saturday, November 4
10 am - 1 pm
 Norwalk City Hall Lawn • 12700 Norwalk Blvd
 In Partnership with the
 City of Norwalk Public Safety Department
 Honoring Our Veterans
 For additional information
 please call (562) 929-5777

Give a Paw-sitively Thankful Home to a Furry Friend

Give a dog or kitten in need of a home to be thankful for this month by adopting them! The City of Norwalk has partnered with SEAACA to host a pet adoption event on November 4, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. This will be held at the Norwalk City Hall Lawn at 12700 Norwalk Boulevard. For more information, please call 562-929-5777.

FREE Dog Waste Pickup Signs "It's Your Dooty"

As part of the City's effort to Keep Norwalk Clean, residents can fetch a free yard sign that encourages dog walkers to pick up dog waste. Head over to City Hall at 12700 Norwalk Blvd in Room 15. Once you have your sign, place it strategically in your yard for others to see. Remember, these signs are not just about keeping our communities clean; it's also about fostering a strong sense of community. Let's work together to create a 'purr-fect' Norwalk for all our residents, including our four-legged family members. While supplies last.



Walk and Bike to School Day



October 4th was National Walk and Bike to School Day, which has students across the nation walking or biking to school to promote health and safety in

communities.

The City of Norwalk joined forces with the City of Santa Fe Springs, Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District, Little Lake School District, and the Norwalk Public Safety Department to ensure that our students safely participated in this event.

This annual event helps create good habits in students. Active trips to school allow students to incorporate the daily physical activity needed for a healthier lifestyle. Students are also encouraged to follow safety rules when crossing streets and help motorists be more cautious when driving near school zones.



14040 San Antonio Dr • 562-929-5580

Hope & Well-Being

Mondays Monthly October 2 • 10 - 11 a.m.

Virtually on Microsoft Teams Meeting or Call-in

The Service Area 7 Peer Resource Center is proud to bring services to the Norwalk Senior Center. Participants are invited to join in discussing topics intended to support community growth and well-being through peer support, art, and personal experiences. This group is bilingual in English and Spanish. You may participate in-person at the Norwalk Senior Center or virtually by phone 323-776-6996 or Microsoft Teams. Call (562) 929-5580 for more information on Microsoft Teams Meetings. The Conference ID for virtual entry into the meeting is 283 956 208#

CalFresh

First Tuesday & Third Tuesday Monthly • 9 - 11 a.m.

A CalFresh Outreach worker, from the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, is available onsite to assist seniors with their CalFresh application. The CalFresh Outreach worker is also available via phone to assist seniors throughout the week (323) 855-0496.

Veteran Service Officer (VSO) Weekly Meeting with Veterans

Wednesdays Monthly • 8:15 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Veterans are able to make an appointment to meet one on one with a Veteran Service Officer (VSO), from the Los Angeles County Department of Military & Veterans Affairs (MVA) every Wednesday. The VSO's one on one meetings allow veterans the ability to get individualized assistance with their VA benefits. To schedule an appointment, call the Norwalk Senior Center (562) 929-5580.

Shopping on a Budget

Wednesday, November 8 • 10 - 11 a.m.

Budgeting affects our buying and makes our money go further. It also helps us avoid unnecessary spending. Join us for a presentation on shopping on a budget. Staff from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health will instruct you on how to plan healthy, budget friendly meals, how to overcome challenges when planning healthy meals, how to make healthier food choices during times of stress, and provide tips on how to include more fruits and vegetables in meals and snacks. Call (562) 929-5580 for more information.

Veterans Day Recognition Services

Thursday, November 9 • 2 - 4 p.m.

You are cordially invited to salute our nation's heroes. We are eternally grateful to all those men and women who fought and served for our country. We will be honoring all those who served with a special small ceremony and light refreshments. To RSVP and for more information call (562) 929-5580.

AARP Driver Safety Classes

Monday, November 13

Wednesday, November 15 • 1 - 5 p.m.

**Cost: \$20 for AARP members
\$25 for non-members**

Join us for an in-person course to update your driving skills and your knowledge of the rules, and hazards, of the road. Upon completion of this course, you may qualify for an auto insurance discount*. This 8-hour class is taught over two days, and attendance at both classes is required. Pre-registration is required, call (562) 929-5580 for information. *Check with your auto insurance agent for possible discount information.

Senior Safety Program:

Holiday Safety

Tuesday, November 14 • 10 - 11 a.m.

The Holiday season is always a special time of year, but it is also a time when busy people become vulnerable to theft and holiday crime. City of Norwalk Public Safety Department staff will be conducting a presentation on "Holiday Safety". This presentation will remind you of the precautions we can all take to have a safe and happy holiday season. Call (562) 929-5580 for more information.

Keeping It Crafty: Straw-Man Can

Tuesday, November 14 • 3 - 5 p.m.

Cost: Free

He's friends with a tin man, and a lion with giant paws. If you were to shake his hand, you'd be clutching at some straws! In this recreation staff led workshop, you will create a scarecrow out of household items. Light refreshments will be provided. Register Now. Call (562) 929-5580 for more information.

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| <p>City Hall: (562) 929-5700 Public Safety: (562) 929-5732 Sheriff's Station: (562) 863-8711 Graffiti Hotline: (562) 929-5555</p> | | <p>Transit: (562) 929-5533 Recreation & Parks Services (562) 929-5702 Senior Center: (562) 929-5580 Social Services Center: (562) 929-5544</p> |
|--|--|---|



11929 Alondra Blvd • 562-929-5544

Music Mania Karaoke

Thursday, November 2 • 5 - 7 p.m.

You're going to Hollywood! Showcase your singing in the form of Karaoke. All residents are encouraged to participate and sing their hearts out in this judgment free environment. Snacks and light refreshments will be provided.

Family Trivia Night: Music Mayhem

Thursday, November 30 • 5 - 7 p.m.

Test your music knowledge at the Music Mayhem edition of the Family Trivia Night. Participants will compete in teams at the chance of winning a prize. Snacks and light refreshments will be provided.

Family Zumba Night

**Second & Fourth Wednesdays Monthly
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

A fun and easy way to keep your family active with Zumba. To register, please call (562) 929-5544.

Neurotics Anonymous

Tuesdays Weekly • 12 - 2 p.m.

If you suffer from fear, anxiety, loneliness, anger, depression, or other emotions that may make life unbearable, you are encouraged to seek help from Neurotics Anonymous. Spanish only. For more information, please call (562) 929-5544.

AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)

Every Monday & Tuesday • 6 - 8 p.m.

Peer support group intended to guide and encourage individuals trying to recover from alcoholism. Spanish Only. For more information, please call (562) 929-5544.

L.A.D.Y. (Leadership and Advocacy for the Direction of Young Women)

Second & Fourth Thursday Monthly • 6 - 8 p.m.

Mentoring program for young women ages 15-23, who have struggled with any of the following, due to the COVID-19 pandemic: Mental/physical health, financial stability, personal growth, relationships, and education. L.A.D.Y. will focus on proactive techniques to manage these issues. For more information please call, (562) 929-5544.

Youth Intervention Services

Youth Intervention services are available to Norwalk families whose youth are experiencing dysfunction in today's society. Intervention workers are trained counselors who work with at-risk adolescents experiencing negative behaviors at school, home, or community. For more information, please call Norwalk Social Services at (562) 929-5544.

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

Second & Fourth Wednesday Monthly • 6 - 8 p.m.

Free educational program designed for parents, family members, and caregivers of children and adolescents, with emotional or behavioral difficulties. This support group is available in Spanish only. To make an inquiry or to schedule an appointment, please contact Silvia at (562) 448-4816.

Senior Zumba Classes

First & Third Wednesday Monthly • 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Free Zumba classes are available for all seniors at Norwalk Social Services. Seniors are encouraged to come and enjoy an active morning. For more information, please call (562) 929-5544.

Loteria

Date: Every Friday • 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Seniors are encouraged to join our free loteria mornings at the Social Services Center. For more information, please call (562) 929-5544.

CEA-H.O.W.

Every Tuesday • 10 – 11:30 a.m.

CEA-H.O.W. is a fellowship of men and women who meet to share their experience, strength and hope. Our purpose is to help others and ourselves who suffer from the self-destruction of compulsive eating. Spanish Only.

Cal Fresh

Thursdays Monthly • 9 - 11 a.m. • by appointment only

A Cal Fresh Outreach worker, from the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, will be available to assist community members with their application. To schedule an appointment, please call (562) 929-5544.

Community Legal Aid

**Second & Fourth Wednesday Monthly
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. by appointment only**

Free legal services will be available for Norwalk residents who meet income eligibility guidelines. To schedule an appointment, please call (562) 929-5544.

Get four free at-home COVID-19 tests delivered to your home

Order your tests at www.covid.gov/tests

Take an at-home test: If you begin having COVID-19 symptoms like fever, sore throat, runny nose, or loss of taste or smell, or At least 5 days after you come into close contact with someone with COVID-19

STOP THE SPREAD

Need help placing an order for your at-home tests? Call 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 1-888-720-7489)

