



High Population Density Testing Week 11: July 31 and August 1, 2020

Gilmer and Marion County

Date of Report: August 10, 2020



Background

Under the direction of Gov. Jim Justice, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) established an advisory group to assist in community outreach and education related to COVID-19 in African Americans, Latinos, and other minorities in West Virginia. As part of that effort, the Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs, DHHR and the West Virginia National Guard developed a plan to increase COVID-19 testing opportunities for minorities and other vulnerable populations. This testing was undertaken in partnership with local health departments and other community partners.

While open to all, the testing initiative focused on counties and communities with high African American populations given the disparities by race being seen with COVID-19 both nationally and in West Virginia. Overall, African Americans comprise the largest of West Virginia's minority populations, making up 3.6% of West Virginian residents.¹

The initiative worked to reach residents who have struggled to be seen by a physician or who do not have insurance to pay for testing. It provided free, optional testing to residents, including asymptomatic individuals, in counties with high minority populations and evidence of COVID-19 transmission.

Week Eleven of testing was held on July 31 and August 1, 2020 in Gilmer and Marion counties. The percent of the population who are African American in Gilmer County is 11% and in Marion County is 3.3%¹.

The following data highlights the demographics and test results of individuals tested during the eleventh round. Data from additional rounds of community-based testing will be added subsequently.

Of note is the fact that this effort is meant to be a starting point to addressing the issue at hand. It is our hope that the lessons learned and the tools and partnerships developed through this testing initiative can further build upon relationships and systems at the community level to assure education, outreach, testing and follow up care is available to all.

We extend our thanks to all who have made this effort possible, especially the Advisory Task Force and most importantly, the communities themselves.

¹ Data Item: Population, 2019 Estimate.

[Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program \(PEP\), updated annually. Population and Housing Unit Estimates](#)

Results by County

Gilmer County²

Race	Total Tested	% Pop Tested	Total Positive	% Positive	Total Negative	% Negative
American Indian	3	0.99%	0	0.00%	3	100%
Asian	4	1.32%	0	0.00%	4	100%
Black/African American	8	2.64%	0	0.00%	8	100%
Caucasian/Not Hispanic	284	93.73%	0	0.00%	284	100%
Hispanic/Latino	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Mixed	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	3	0.99%	0	0.00%	3	100%
Other	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Unknown/Not Indicated	1	0.33%	0	0.00%	1	100%
Total	303	100%	0	0.00%	303	100%

Marion County³

Race	Total Tested	% Pop Tested	Total Positive	% Positive	Total Negative	% Negative
American Indian	3	0.48%	0	0.00%	3	100%
Asian	1	0.16%	0	0.00%	1	100%
Black/African American	178	28.34%	0	0.00%	178	100%
Caucasian/Not Hispanic	398	63.38%	1	0.25%	397	99.75%
Hispanic/Latino	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Mixed	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	10	1.59%	0	0.00%	10	100%
Other	13	2.07%	0	0.00%	13	100%
Unknown/Not Indicated	25	3.98%	0	0.00%	25	100%
Total	628	100%	1	0.16%	627	99.84%

² Four Caucasian Specimens were rejected due to insufficient information.

³ Three Caucasian Specimens were rejected due to insufficient information. One African American Specimen was indeterminate.

Attendance by County by Race

