

## NEWS RELEASE

### **Board of Commissioners adopts Nelson resolution calling on federal government to provide Oakland County needed COVID-19 test supplies**

*Bipartisan vote highlights need for greater federal leadership to ensure public safety and re-open economy*

**May 4, 2020, OAKLAND COUNTY, MI.** – In a bipartisan vote, the Board of Commissioners approved a resolution sponsored by Commissioner **Kristen Nelson** (D-Waterford Township) calling on the federal government to provide Oakland County with COVID-19 testing equipment with rapid result capabilities at its meeting on April 29. In addition, the resolution called for greater federal responsibility in building widespread availability of COVID-19 testing necessary to ensure containment of the virus and return to public life. Currently, the responsibility for obtaining testing supplies falls to state and local governments, which has resulted in competition among governments and businesses for scarce testing supplies and an overall reduction of the COVID-19 testing capabilities throughout the country.

“It’s unacceptable that Oakland County public health officers, healthcare workers, and emergency responders continue to struggle to obtain access to the COVID-19 tests we desperately need to contain the spread of COVID-19,” Nelson said. “Poor leadership from Washington has resulted in bidding wars among governments and businesses for limited supplies, driving up costs and creating widespread shortages. Democrats and Republicans stand together in this fight to keep Oakland County residents safe and re-open our economy.”

The resolution aligns Oakland County with governors and municipal leaders across the country, representing both political parties, who are calling on the President to develop a robust national COVID-19 testing program.

Public health experts agree that in the absence of a breakthrough treatment or vaccine, the widespread availability of COVID-19 testing is crucial for the containment of the virus, the safe re-opening of the economy and the resumption of everyday life.

While Oakland County has been rapidly increasing its testing capacity with drive-through COVID-19 sites and other testing efforts, securing testing supplies continues to be a challenge.

For more information about COVID-19 in Oakland County, visit [www.oakgov.com/covid](http://www.oakgov.com/covid). For health-related questions contact the Health Division's Nurse on Call at 800-848-5533. For non-medical information, resources, and local community assistance referrals, call the COVID-19 Help Hotline at 248-858-1000.

For more information about the Board of Commissioners, visit [www.oakgov.com/boc](http://www.oakgov.com/boc) or call 248-858-0100.

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