Why is COVID-19 Testing Still Crucial Now that Vaccination is Available?

Reason 1: Tree pollen, ragweed or hay fever, oh my! *It's tricky to know whether you are experiencing seasonal allergies or COVID-19 symptoms. Getting tested for COVID-19 provides an answer so you know what to do!*

Reason 2: Simply put – widespread testing is crucial for infection control. *Testing allows scientists to track who the virus is infecting and where, such as detecting early outbreaks and how widely the virus may be spreading among those not experiencing any symptoms or mildly symptomatic people in Kansas.*

Reason 3: Testing will help track more contagious variants. *Scientists believe that COVID-19 variants that have emerged in the UK, South Africa and Brazil are more contagious and more deadly. Getting tested will help scientists gather sufficient data to develop strategies to protect you and your loved ones.*

Reason 4: Testing can track the effectiveness of vaccination in the population. Testing allows medical professionals to treat those who develop symptoms, even if they are vaccinated. *Even though vaccines are highly effective (as high as 95%), a small proportion of the vaccinated people may get infected and the only way to find that out is by getting tested. If you were vaccinated, but later have respiratory symptoms, it is important that you go get tested.*

Reason 5: It can help you protect others around you: *Protecting our loved ones and stopping the spread of the virus is important – and testing is key!*

Go get tested…
- *If you have any symptoms, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.*
- *If you've been in close contact with someone who tested positive with COVID-19. Close contact means that you are within 6 feet of that person for a total of 15 mins or more over a 24-hour period.*
- *If you've been in activities that put yourself at higher risk for COVID-19, such as attending large gatherings, or being in crowded or poorly-ventilated indoor settings.*
- *If you are getting ready to travel or have just gotten back from travel.*
- *It's ok to get tested even if you don't have symptoms.*