

**Re: COVID-19 Health & Safety Risks for Standardized Testing**

1 message

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**john davis** <johndavis303030@hotmail.com>

Wed, Jul 15, 2020 at 7:52 AM

To: Rita Moreno <rita.moreno@lacity.org>, "Clerk.cps@lacity.org" <Clerk.cps@lacity.org>, "CityClerk@lacity.org" <CityClerk@lacity.org>, Mayor Helpdesk <mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org>, "phwebmaster@ph.lacounty.gov" <phwebmaster@ph.lacounty.gov>, "councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org" <councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org>, "councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org" <councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org>, Councilmember Blumenfield <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>, "david.ryu@lacity.org" <david.ryu@lacity.org>, "paul.koretz@lacity.org" <paul.koretz@lacity.org>, "councilmember.martinez@lacity.org" <councilmember.martinez@lacity.org>, Councilmember Rodriguez <councilmember.rodriguez@lacity.org>, "councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org" <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, "councilmember.price@lacity.org" <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, "councilmember.wesson@lacity.org" <councilmember.wesson@lacity.org>, "councilmember.bonin@lacity.org" <councilmember.bonin@lacity.org>, "councilmember.Lee@lacity.org" <councilmember.Lee@lacity.org>, Mitch O'Farrell <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>, "councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org" <councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org>

All these testing centers are planning on remaining open this weekend despite of Governor Newsom's orders. Please ensure the safety of the public by closing these testing centers not just in LA but also all over California.

Thanks,  
John

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**From:** john davis**Sent:** Wednesday, June 10, 2020 6:01 PM

**To:** Rita Moreno <rita.moreno@lacity.org>; Clerk.cps@lacity.org <Clerk.cps@lacity.org>; CityClerk@lacity.org <CityClerk@lacity.org>; Mayor Helpdesk <mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org>; phwebmaster@ph.lacounty.gov <phwebmaster@ph.lacounty.gov>; councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org <councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org>; councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org <councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org>; Councilmember Blumenfield <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>; david.ryu@lacity.org <david.ryu@lacity.org>; paul.koretz@lacity.org <paul.koretz@lacity.org>; councilmember.martinez@lacity.org <councilmember.martinez@lacity.org>; Councilmember Rodriguez <councilmember.rodriguez@lacity.org>; councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>; councilmember.price@lacity.org <councilmember.price@lacity.org>; councilmember.wesson@lacity.org <councilmember.wesson@lacity.org>; councilmember.bonin@lacity.org <councilmember.bonin@lacity.org>; councilmember.Lee@lacity.org <councilmember.Lee@lacity.org>; Mitch O'Farrell <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>; councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org <councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org>

**Subject:** COVID-19 Health & Safety Risks for Standardized Testing

I'm writing again to raise awareness about health and safety concerns at Pearson Professional Centers conducting standardized testing.

Several standardized tests will be resuming next week and in the coming months and many test-takers are concerned about their health and safety, especially due to increased concerns of disease spread after large crowd gatherings at protests.

These are some of the addresses of the testing centers in Los Angeles County:

1) Pearson Professional Center  
Address: [70 S Lake Ave # 840, Pasadena, CA 91101](#)  
Phone number: (626) 397-2815

2) Pearson Professional Center  
Address: [1000 Fremont Ave a7 building suite 300, Alhambra, CA 91803](#)

## 3) Pearson Vue Test Center

Address: [3460 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90010](#)

## 4) Pearson Professional Center Culver City

Address: [300 Corporate Pointe #200, Culver City, CA 90230](#)

Phone number: (310) 417-9090

## 5) Pearson Professional Center

Address: [1515 W 190th St #405, Gardena, CA 90248](#)

Phone number: (310) 532-7521

## 6) Pearson Professional Center

Address: [875 S Westlake Blvd #106, Westlake Village, CA 91361](#)

Phone number: (805) 778-0020

- These centers claim they will be following social distancing guidelines and requiring test-takers to wear masks during the exams but it is simply insufficient according to these articles: <https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/article/coronavirus-covid-19-6-feet-social-distancing-not-always-enough>
- When testing resumes at Pearson, there will be multiple health and safety measures, including: Social distancing: examinees will be seated six feet (2 meters) apart in the test center. Examinees can bring masks and gloves to the exam." These safety measures are inadequate and not in line with current research on the virus. Bourouiba et. al points out that: "Given various combinations of an individual patient's physiology and environmental conditions, such as humidity and temperature, the gas cloud and its payload of pathogen-bearing droplets of all sizes can travel 23 to 27 feet (7-8 m). Given the turbulent puff cloud dynamic model, recommendations for separations of 3 to 6 feet (1-2 m) may underestimate the distance, timescale, and persistence over which the cloud and its pathogenic payload travel, thus generating an under-appreciated potential exposure range for a health care worker." Considering these findings six feet of separation between examinees seems inadequate and may be based on an oversimplification 'pathogenic payload travel.' <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2763852>
- The CDC's guidance on surgical masks states as follows: "[surgical masks] do NOT provide the wearer with a reliable level of protection from inhaling smaller airborne particles and is not considered respiratory protection." Since, most test takers only have access to surgical masks and the CDC states that they will not provide complete protection against the virus, I am concerned that Pearson's safety measures will be ineffective. <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/pdfs/UnderstandDifferenceInfographic-508.pdf>
- Exam takers and proctors coming to these testing centers pose a public health risk as we do not know whether everyone at these facilities are tested for COVID-19. Healthcare workers who have potential exposure to COVID-19 will be attending these testing centers and individuals, especially immunocompromised ones, will have their lives at risk.
- Test-takers are allowed to take the exams in any state, this means individuals from highly infected states that have their tests cancelled in for example, New York, or other countries may come to a state like California to take this test.
- Tests that are conducted in these centers like the MCAT are 6 hours long, that is more than enough time for individuals to face an exposure to COVID-19.
- To accommodate a large number of previously cancelled tests, these Pearson testing centers will be operating from 5AM well until midnight and they will undoubtedly be a site of possible exposure to COVID-19.
- No health precautions and sanitary measures will prevent the spread of the virus at these testing centers that are enclosed and have a high potential for the virus to remain in air circulation:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2020/04/29/studies-leave-question-airborne-coronavirus-transmission-unanswered/>

- Moreover, the fact that asymptomatic individuals can spread the virus, makes the operations at these testing centers even more risky. According to this study recently published, "Asymptomatic persons can transmit SARS-CoV-2 to others for an extended period, perhaps longer than 14 days." <https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/M20-3012>
- If individuals come into these testing centers and contract COVID-19, they can continue to transmit this virus asymptotically and we already know that individuals can be asymptomatic for up to 2 weeks: <https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses>
- Schools are doing virtual learning during the summer and the Cal State university system recently announced that their fall term will be virtual.
- An immunocompromised individual like myself, I can't go outside too often without a vaccine due to the risks associated with COVID-19. My doctors have strongly recommended to wait until I'm vaccinated before sitting down to take this exam in person. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/immunocompromised.html>
- Resuming in-person testing in metropolitan areas that are hot spots such as Los Angeles for the coronavirus would disproportionately affect people of color, who statistically, according to the CDC have worse health outcomes if infected with COVID-19. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/racial-ethnic-minorities.html>

It is irresponsible for Pearson Vue to plan on resuming standardized testing from June through fall and potentially next year, and are not seeing the grave potential health implications.

The many health risks are easily avoidable if the testing centers simply remain closed until we achieve herd immunity through a vaccine that is available to the public.

Test-takers, especially immunocompromised individuals and people of color, are counting on public health officials to make decisions that ensure their safety.

Please consider advocating for not allowing these standardized tests to continue in not only Los Angeles County but also across the state. Opening these testing centers have a high potential for exacerbating COVID-19 spread and prolonging the recovery California and the rest of the country.

I hope you take the time to read through the resources and studies I've shared. I will sincerely appreciate your help.

Thanks,  
John

**Fwd: Urgent**

1 message

**Izabella Hovhanisian** <[izabella.hovhanisian@lacity.org](mailto:izabella.hovhanisian@lacity.org)>  
To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <[clerk.cps@lacity.org](mailto:clerk.cps@lacity.org)>

Wed, Jul 15, 2020 at 8:56 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Council Member Koretz** <[paul.koretz@lacity.org](mailto:paul.koretz@lacity.org)>  
Date: Tue, Jul 14, 2020 at 7:12 PM  
Subject: Fwd: Urgent  
To: Izabella Hovhanisian <[izabella.hovhanisian@lacity.org](mailto:izabella.hovhanisian@lacity.org)>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Aiicha Aiicha** <[getaiicha@gmail.com](mailto:getaiicha@gmail.com)>  
Date: Tue, Jul 14, 2020 at 6:51 PM  
Subject: Re: Urgent  
To: [paul.koretz@lacity.org](mailto:paul.koretz@lacity.org) <[paul.koretz@lacity.org](mailto:paul.koretz@lacity.org)>

On Tue, Jul 14, 2020 at 6:50 PM Aiicha Aiicha <[getaiicha@gmail.com](mailto:getaiicha@gmail.com)> wrote:

On Tue, Jul 14, 2020 at 6:49 PM Aiicha Aiicha <[getaiicha@gmail.com](mailto:getaiicha@gmail.com)> wrote:

There's been people housed in our street. I live at [10366 Bellwood Ave, Century City 90064](#). These outsiders are staying at the courtyard in Century City. They shot up our private street. People could have died. They come in groups to visit the homeless residents that are housed in this hotel. They urinate on the street and litter trash all over the street. They get drunk and start hitting cars as they leave at 3 in the morning. We have confirmed with the hotel workers that they are coming to stay and visit their friends m. They do drug transactions and have gun fights. Please regime them at the city they came from. LAX would be better suited for them. This area is full of elderly people and children. We don't want our lives in danger. The rental property is by V&L properties. This has been going on for three months. It is night comforting to fight a pandemic and fight for safety of gang members being housed at our street. Please take them elsewhere. If you didn't find them in Beverly Hills, don't place them in Beverly Hills. These people have BMWs and Audi's. I don't know how they tricked the system that they are homeless. This is one of them on the phone threatening someone on the phone. They turned Beverly Hills into Compton.





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