Illinois hospitals are stepping up. Learn how Carle Health leveraged its expertise to expand COVID-19 testing and decrease wait times for results.

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago
Teaming Up With the State to Expand Testing

When Gov. JB Pritzker began expanding testing to African American communities, he turned to Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago to execute the important step of processing samples.

By doing so, Lurie Children’s—one of the top children’s hospital in the U.S.—will help ensure more African Americans in Chicago know if they have COVID-19. The State’s collaboration with Lurie Children’s comes as Gov. Pritzker outlined plans to add more testing in the city’s South and West sides, south suburbs and near St. Louis.

Increased testing is high priority as African Americans comprise 15% of Illinois’ population but 40% of COVID-19 deaths.

“We’re working hard to expand our state testing capacity,” Pritzker said during his daily news conference on April 10, “and as we do so, we’re thinking seriously about where and how these tests are available, and to whom.”

Health centers on the city’s South and West sides will collect an additional 400 swabs every day from residents and send them to Lurie Children’s.

Along with partnering with the State on testing, Lurie Children’s teamed up with Gov. Pritzker for a youth-centered virtual town hall on April 11. Colleen Cicchetti, PhD, a pediatric psychologist at Lurie Children’s, answered questions with Gov. Pritzker.

“The most important thing to know is your feelings are normal,” Cicchetti told the youth participating. “What we can do if we have difficult emotions is figure out how to sort them out a bit.”

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