



Southern University at Shreveport, LA

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Shreveport, LA 71107

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 5, 2021

Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) and David Raines Health Center (DRHC) are working together to offer free COVID-19 testing for people who live in Northwest Louisiana. Testing has been made possible through a grant awarded to SUSLA from Testing for America (TFA), a non-profit established in 2020 by leading scientists, epidemiologists and business leaders working to ensure effective and abundant COVID-19 testing as a tool to fight the pandemic.

TFA uses a “collective expertise to advance best practices in testing and facilitate the development of effective testing programs.” They “celebrate and encourage vaccines” while assisting to support “sustaining a robust testing infrastructure.....to help contain outbreaks and protect those who are not vaccinated.”

- Testing for America strives to increase access to affordable, accessible, and frequent COVID-19 testing.
- Testing for America is a nonprofit established by leading scientists, academics, and entrepreneurs.
- The most important outcome is the safe return of Americans to work, school and routine activities.

Wille White, David Raines CEO said “COVID testing is so important especially now, as our communities are experiencing a significant surge in the spread of the Delta Variant of COVID 19. Testing is essential in helping slow the spread of the virus by identifying those who may have the virus.” DRCHC healthcare services to four parish in Northwest Louisiana; Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, and Webster.

“As Louisiana continues to experience a rise in COVID-19 positive cases, testing continues to be an essential step in decreasing infections.” Said Dr. Rodney Ellis, Chancellor of Southern

University at Shreveport, “We want to do everything we can to help the students, staff and faculty on our campus and the surrounding MLK – Cooper Road Community area fight back against this horrible disease.”

If symptoms are present, individuals need to be tested for infection. For persons wanting to be vaccinated, being tested prior to vaccination is essential. SUSLA will conduct community testing at its MLK campus location in September. More information will be available in late August.

The tests administered are the nasal swab, which is less invasive than the nasal cavity swab. Individuals may receive free rapid response testing at the DRHC Shreveport North location, 1625 David Raines Road, Shreveport, LA 71107 Monday -Friday, 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Appointments are recommended.

### **About Southern University at Shreveport**

Southern University at Shreveport, an institution within the Southern University System, seeks to provide a quality education for its students, while being committed to the total community. This institution prepares students for careers in technical and occupational fields; awards certificates and associate degrees as well as offerings and programs that are transferable to other colleges and universities. Dedicated to excellence in instruction and community service, this open enrollment institution promotes cultural diversity, provides developmental and continuing education, and seeks partnerships with business and industry.

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