

Testing confusion causes strain in Hispanic community

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EASTON — The Hispanic community in Talbot County is feeling the pressures of mixed messaging and misinformation surrounding COVID-19 testing. Many employees have been told by their bosses that they cannot come to work until they have a negative test, others are told they will face prosecution if they fail to get tested.

Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center Executive Director Matthew Peters has been working with the community to ensure the information put out by Talbot County Department of Emergency Services is translated into Spanish. Lately the center has been inundated with phone calls from concerned individuals that have been ordered to get testing before they can return to work.

“If people can’t come to work, and they



**MATTHEW
PETERS**



**CLAY B.
STAMP**

don’t have any options for unemployment or way to maintain their family, they’re put into a rough spot where they’re being ordered by one person to get a test,” Peters said. “And yet there’s no real way to accomplish this. People can’t just go out and get tested.”

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Talbot County Department of Emergency Services Director Clay Stamp and Talbot County Health Officer Dr. Fredia Wadley are working together to ensure business owners have the right guidance if they suspect there may be COVID-19 exposure.

“The opportunity we have is to pass on the CDC guidance when it comes to how you should respond if you think you have exposure,” Stamp said. “Dr. Wadley is taking the

lead to give some specific guidance to small businesses about how to relate with their employees when they’ve come into contact or believe they’ve come into contact.”

“What we’re hearing right now is that business owners think there may have been an exposure, they’re trying to make everybody get tested,” Stamp added. “Where we’re at right now, there are not enough tests to test everybody unless you’re symptomatic.”

Guidance from the Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration can be found at [osha.gov](https://www.osha.gov). There are steps employers can take to limit the transmission of COVID-19 within their workplaces.