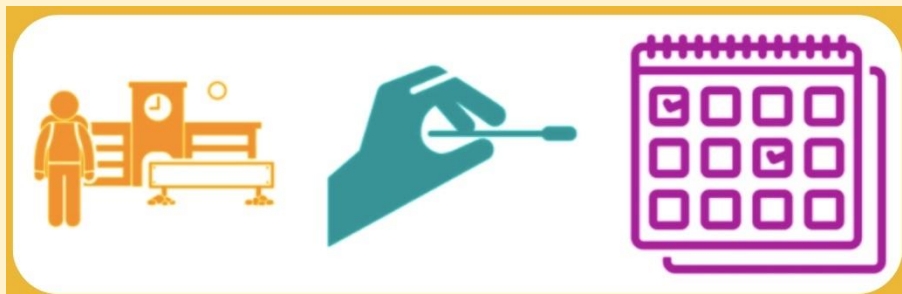


Littleton Public Schools

POOLED TESTING UPDATE

March 19th, 2021



CHECK IT OUT!

Interesting article on pooled testing initiatives across the commonwealth

Cic Health's Pooled Testing Reaches More Than 160,000 Students, Faculty & Staff To Date

link to article:

<https://www.cic-health.com/press-release-pooled-testing>

EVERY SWAB COUNTS!

We have just completed our 5th week of pooled testing. In our first week, we submitted 67 pools. This week, we submitted 81 pools!

A huge thank you to everyone who has jumped in the pool!!

Pooled testing is an extremely helpful mitigation strategy and we would love to see that number continue to grow as we begin to transition back to full in person instruction in the coming weeks.

P.S. We **love** questions so please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have!!

Please complete the linked google form to fill out a consent:

STUDENT CONSENT: <https://forms.gle/Np8JpXsvX9qShsfx9>

STAFF CONSENT: <https://forms.gle/P9wbS1ft9LeicRwYA>

Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Philpot at mphilpot@littletonps.org or Lyn Snow at lsnow@littletonps.org

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS....WE HAVE ANSWERS!!



Please reach out to us with any questions!

Lyn Snow - lsnow@littletonps.org

Mary Philpot - mphilpot@littletonps.org

HERE'S A FEW QUESTIONS/ANSWERS:

Q: Is pooled testing an effective strategy in areas with low transmission rates?

A: Yes. Pooled testing is an effective strategy in areas with low transmission. With lower COVID-19 rates, there may be fewer Follow-Up Tests. This can increase staff and community confidence in returning to school while incurring much lower costs than individual testing.

Q: Is pooled testing an effective strategy in areas where COVID prevalence is high?

A: Yes. Pooled testing is a highly effective tool to identify positive cases without the logistical and financial burden of regular individual testing. In communities with high COVID prevalence, it is strongly suggested that schools and districts start with pools smaller than 10 to minimize the number of positive pools returned. If decreasing pool size is not effective in limiting the number of positive pools, schools should explore individual testing or consider other options.

Q: How has the state reviewed the laboratories used in the Pooled Testing Program?

A: All laboratories allowed to process samples under the state-contracted Pooled Testing Services Providers have undergone a technical review of their pooling strategy and supplementary data in collaboration with DPH.

Q: Is the Abbott BinaxNOW accurate enough to be used as a follow up to the pooled test, especially for asymptomatic children?

A: Yes. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health endorses its use in Follow Up Testing. This study provides further details:

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.01.09.21249499v1>.

No test is 100% accurate. BinaxNOW tests are extremely effective at picking up those individuals with high viral loads (assumed to be most infectious) and are adequate for this purpose if PCR tests are available to follow up on individuals if a positive pool returns no positive BinaxNOW results. Anyone who develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should get tested, even if they have recently received a negative result.