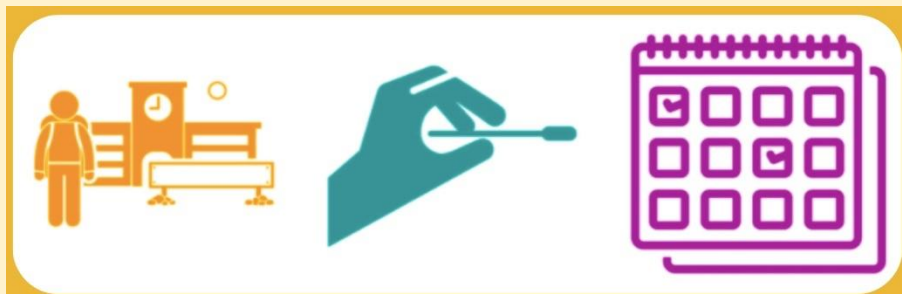


Littleton Public Schools

POOLED TESTING UPDATE

March 5th, 2021



DO YOU WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN POOLED TESTING?

Please complete the linked google form to fill out a consent

STUDENT CONSENT: <https://forms.gle/Np8JpXsvX9qShsfX9>

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

WANT TO SEE WHAT POOLED TESTING LOOKS LIKE IN ACTION?

Check out this video!

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LvrpW1fauteuW_i5j3dX8ydJNExfSkWv/view?usp=sharing

Many thanks to the Russell Street School for providing this helpful video!

And a special thanks to our leading man, Eric!

HERE'S SOME NEGATIVE NEWS THAT IS GOOD NEWS!!

We have some negative news you can get excited about! In the past week 99.66% (1441) of pooled tests in the DESE program have been negative!! In other words, the positivity rate is only 0.34% (5).

Covid-19's chances for transmission in schools are dwindling.

That's some good news!!

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

Questions?

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

POOLED TESTING UPDATE

On Thursday, March 4th, we held an open forum/Q&A session on Pooled Testing. It was a great discussion and we would like to express our gratitude to all who attended. The following is a summary of the questions/topics that came up during the meeting.

Q&A during Parent Forum on Pool Testing

- Q. What is reflex testing?
- A. *Reflex testing is the test that we administer to individuals who are members of an positive pool identified through pooled testing. We use the BinaxNOW antigen test to identify positive cases. Binax NOW is a rapid test where results are produced within 15 minutes.*
- Q. Is the BinaxNOW test a short or long swab? It is a self-swab?
- A. *The BinaxNOW test is considered a short swab. The nurse will perform the swab and is considered slightly more invasive than the self-swab performed during pooled testing and will produce a slightly different sensation than a self-swab (i.e. you are not able to 'tickle' yourself). It should be noted that the swab for the BinaxNOW test is longer in length than the pooled testing swab.*
- Q. When will we know if this is helping us figure out if more kids can come back to school? Will this testing be a part of the decision making to bring students back?
- A. *We are reviewing the results of the pooled testing data and the district soft metrics as in conjunction with the town/community data and using these data to continue to inform our decisions moving forward with regard to increasing in person instruction*
- Q. How long are we doing this?
- A. *Initially, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education extended the pooled testing program to districts at no cost for 6 weeks (2/8/2021-3/29/2021). The program has been extended until 4/19/2021. Prior to 4/19, the Superintendent and School Committee will decide if the district will continue the program moving forward.*
- Q. Are reflex tests counted in the state data?
- A. *Yes.*

- Q. What happens if BinaxNow is negative too?
- A. *If all the BinaxNOW tests are conducted as a result of a positive pool and all are negative, this likely indicates an individual of a lower viral load that is less likely to be infectious. In person learning can continue while follow up testing occurs. A second BinaxNOW test can be administered (no sooner than the next day but within 2 days) and if follow up tests do not identify positive individuals, pool members can continue learning/instruction without interruption.*
- Q. How early do you find out if the pool is positive/What is the turnaround time for the pool tests?
- A. *Our Vendor (CIC Health) has indicated that pool results should be received within 24-48 hours. You will be contacted if you or your child is a member of a positive pool. An email will be sent out to the district in the event that there is a delay in receiving pooled testing results (more than 48 beyond specimen collection).*
- Q. When they have to get a reflex test. What does this timeline look like?
- A. *If testing is able to occur during school hours, reflex testing will be performed at the school. In the event that testing is scheduled to occur on Wednesday or outside of school hours, you will be informed of the time and location as testing may occur at an alternate location.*
- Q. Do you need consent for the second (reflex) test? Are they already consented?
- A. *When you provide consent to participate in pooled testing, you are also consenting to follow up/reflex testing. Parents will be contacted/informed prior to testing should testing be performed during the school day.*
- Q. Does the state allow a reward program for those electing to participate?
- A. *The more individuals who participate, the more the data will help us so we are hoping that consents continue to be received. We will be exploring this option. Stay tuned!!*
- Q. If there is a positive case, will Dr. Clenchy continue to send a notification letter?
- A. *Yes, if there is a positive case as a result of reflex testing,, health notification letter(s) will be sent.*
- Q. Will the data from pool tests be shared somewhere?
- A. *The results from the pooled testing will be included in the health metrics presentation provided during the School Committee meetings.*

Comments during the forum:

- *Pool testing is designed to catch asymptomatic individuals*
- *Have kids practice at home*

UPCOMING VIRTUAL EVENTS

HOSTED BY CIC

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10 | 6-7:30PM EST

Pooled Testing at Schools: Parent & Guardian Webinar Session

Learn more about how pooled testing at schools can help teachers and students get back to in-person learning more safely. This presentation will be followed up by a Q&A session with CEO, Tim Rowe. All sessions are recorded and will be available for viewing afterward.

Please click the following link to register for the upcoming virtual events:

LINK: [CIC Health - Virtual Event Offerings](#)

REMINDERS:

- **Please Note:** If your consent was received after 5PM on Thursday, March 4th, you will be added to the list of participants to begin pooled testing starting the week of March 15th.
- **Communication:** You will receive notification if follow up testing is required as a result of being part of a positive pool or if you have been identified as a close contact through contact tracing. *In addition, correspondence will be sent out if there is a delay in receiving results (if results are not received within the 24-48 hour window)*
- **Updates:** District pooled testing data/results will be shared during the health metrics presentation at the School Committee meeting
- **Consents:** Jump in the pool! Join the pool party! Consents can be accepted any time. Please note that lists for the following week are updated to add new participants on Thursdays at 5pm.
- **Program Extension:** The MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has extended the date for the early launch of the state pooled testing initiative and will be covering the district's costs for an additional 3 weeks. The original end date was 3/28 and the program will now be extended until 4/18.