

**Littleton**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



**Health Services**



## POOLED TESTING WEEKLY UPDATE

**April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

THIS WEEK'S EDITION:

**NO NEWS  
IS  
GOOD NEWS!**



This week we collected 84 pools with no positive pools. Results have been coming back quickly! The courier picked up our specimens yesterday (Thursday) at 1:30pm and results were in this morning! We have officially completed 8 weeks of pooled testing (16 collections) and all 16 collections have yielded ZERO positive pools.

UPDATE: The School Committee voted to extend pooled testing until the end of the school year.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE LINKED GOOGLE FORM BELOW TO FILL OUT A CONSENT:

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

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



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## REMINDERS:

### 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

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## QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

There are still notification letters sent out for positive cases. Why is pooled testing not catching them? There are various reasons as to why pooled testing does not catch these positives.

- Less than 100% participation. The individuals may not have been a part of the pooled testing program.
- The individual may have been symptomatic and did the right thing by staying home and getting tested individually.
- The individual may have been a close contact and did the right thing by staying home in quarantine and then getting tested individually.
- COVID tests are a snapshot in time. One day it can be negative because there is no viral load or the viral load is too low to be detected. On a subsequent day, the test is repeated and then it can be positive if the viral load is enough to be detected. That is why it is recommended to get an individual PCR test 5 days after an exposure to COVID.

### REMEMBER::

Pooled testing is a screening tool and not meant to be diagnostic. Pooled testing screens for SARS-CoV-2 infection in a batch of individuals who have no reason to suspect infection, for example there is no known exposure and the individual has no symptoms. In a community where there is low prevalence, we should expect to see mostly negative results for pooled testing. Families and staff are doing a great job staying home when sick or if identified as a close contact - this is one of the most important, if not **the most important** mitigation strategy!!!

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



Please reach out to us with any questions!

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