

POOLED TESTING UPDATE - Staff

February 5th 2021

Littleton Public Schools is ready to dive into pooled testing!

We are very excited to share that all of the schools are ready to begin pooled testing on Monday, February 8th!



Testing kits arrived yesterday and were delivered to schools today. The school-based teams have worked incredibly hard (and extremely efficiently) in order to establish their procedures for collecting the samples. Each school put a great amount of thought into the plans. Plans were developed with the intention of minimizing the impact on students and staff and completing the collection efficiently in order for the specimens to be received by the lab early in the day. Pools are processed at the Broad Institute in Cambridge. In addition to processing tests for school districts, the Broad Institute also performs this work for colleges and universities and the earlier we are able to get our pools to the lab, the sooner we will receive our results.

Even with the best laid plans, please remember that pooled testing is a new venture for schools and there will surely be some unanticipated issues that arise so we ask for your patience, flexibility and understanding. Please don't hesitate to share any feedback, ideas or suggestions that you have with Mary Philpot at mphilpot@littletonps.org or Lyn Snow at lsnow@littletonps.org. We anticipate that the process will evolve over the coming weeks as we reflect on what worked well (and what didn't) and any input you can share would be greatly appreciated.

The following pages will provide you with the following:

- a brief overview of the specimen collection procedure at each school (plans are subject to change as we roll out the program)
- Additional Resources
- FAQs



SPECIMEN COLLECTION SNAPSHOTS - By School

*plans may be adjusted as needed

Littleton High School

- Specimens will be collected for staff and students during lunch blocks on Mondays and Thursdays. Once a smooth flow is established, we anticipate that it will take students less than 1 minute to collect their specimen, turn it in and return to lunch.
- The pooled testing station will be set up in the gymnasium.
- Staff will remind students to go to the gymnasium if they are participating in the program. The specimens will be transported to the Broad Institute immediately following the 3rd lunch, so if students do not report to the gym during the specimen collection period (10:55AM-12:15PM), their specimen will not be collected for that week.
- Specimens will be randomly assigned to pools.
- All health and safety protocols will be strictly followed.

Littleton Middle School

- 7th & 8th Grade: Specimen collection will occur between 7:15am-7:35am.
- 6th Grade: Specimen collection will occur between 7:35am-7:50am.
- 4 day students will participate in Monday's collection.
- Specimens will be randomly assigned to pools.
- Students need to be present during the collection window in order to participate. Pools will be sealed by 8:10, and specimens will be leaving the building following the collection window to be prepared for transport.
- All health & safety protocols will be strictly followed.

Russell Street School

- Pool collection will occur in the morning at the start of the school day.
- During week 1, specimens will be collected outside each classroom in order to provide a demonstration, help acclimate students to the procedure and familiarize students to their assigned pool number. In weeks following, specimens will be collected during student arrival. A pooled collection station will be set up in the main corridor.
- Staff will be available to assist students with the specimen collection as needed.
- Students in each classroom will be rotated across pools. Pool assignments may change as additional consents are received.
- Pool collection will be completed by 8:45. Pools will be sealed following the collection and specimens will be leaving the building to be prepared for transport.
- All health & safety protocols will be strictly followed.

Shaker Lane School

- Pool collection will occur between 9-10am. Specimens will be collected from consenting preschoolers who only attend the PM session at 12:15.
- Specimens will be collected outside of each classroom.
- Staff will assist students with collecting their specimen.
- Students in each classroom will be rotated across pools. Pool assignments may change as additional consents are received.
- All health & safety protocols will be strictly followed.

IMPORTANT

- In order to be included in the week 1 collection (2/8 and 2/11), consents needed to be received prior to 5pm on 2/4. If your consent was submitted after 5pm on 2/4, you will begin participating in week 2 (2/22 and 2/25). If you decide to participate at a later date, you can submit your consent at any time. Master lists will be updated every Thursday at 5pm for the following week's collection. You are also able to withdraw your consent at any time. If you have questions prior to submitting consent or in order to withdraw your consent, please contact Mary Philpot at mphilpot@littletonps.org or Lyn Snow at lsnow@littletonps.org
- Check in with your principal if you have a question about the best time to provide your specimen.
- If you are part of a positive pool, you will be contacted directly to schedule a time for reflex testing. Reflex testing times are contingent on when we receive our results from the laboratory but will likely be able to be performed during school hours.
- We are here for you! And every question is **important!!** Please direct **all** questions pertaining to pooled testing to Mary Philpot at mphilpot@littletonps.org or Lyn Snow at lsnow@littletonps.org.

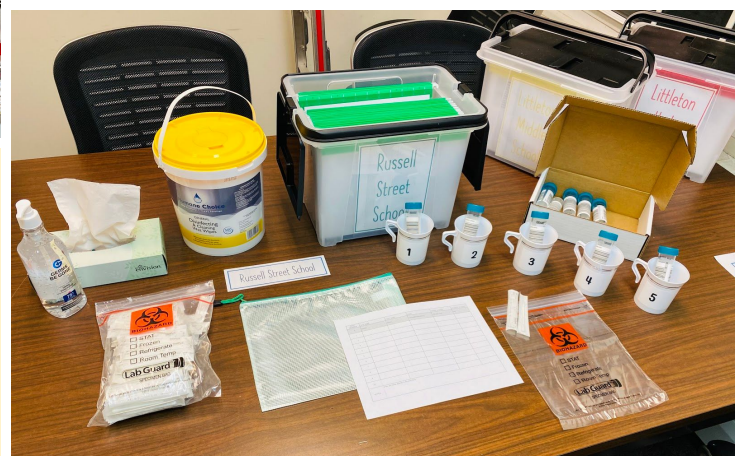
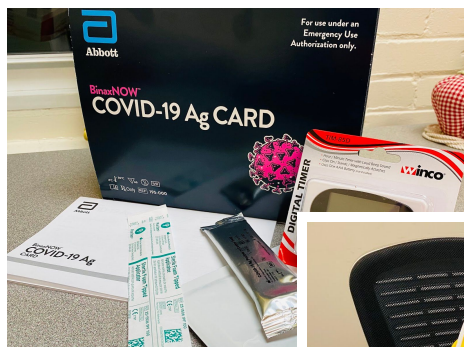
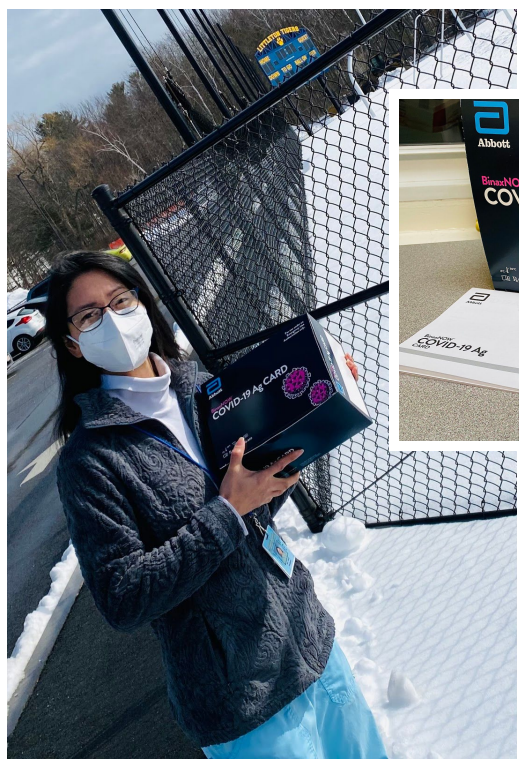
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

(please click on the following links for more information)

[Nasal Swab - How To Guide](#)

[VIDEO - WCVB Sharon Public Schools](#)

[VIDEO - Nasal Swab Demonstration](#)



Littleton Public Schools

POOLED TESTING - FAQ

How is the test sample collected?

It is a self, anterior nasal swab. Please refer to the [step by step guide](#) (←click the link). Staff will assist young students in preschool, kindergarten and grade 1. Students in grades 2 and above are able to self-swab but staff will be available to assist as needed. This is NOT an invasive swab.

Where will the test be analyzed?

The Broad Institute at MIT converted part of the CLIA-certified lab into a high-throughput COVID-19 testing facility.

Should individuals who have previously tested positive for COVID-19 be included in pools?

Individuals who have previously tested positive in the past 90 days are not able to participate in pooled testing but are able to participate after 90 days (Please note that guidance on this point will soon be revised from 90 to 180 days after a positive individual test result).

As individuals are vaccinated, should they be included in pools?

Yes. Vaccinated individuals should still be included in pooled testing.

How long will it take to receive pooled test results?

In most cases, pooled test results will be received in 24-48 hours. As a reminder, students do not need to quarantine while awaiting pooled test results and should be in school unless presenting with symptoms.

How will parents be notified of pooled results?

You will receive an individual notification if your child is in a positive pool.

What will this pooled test tell me?

This test will confirm whether or not someone in a pool group is currently infected with COVID-19.

Positive - If a pool result is positive, individuals will be contacted and scheduled for reflex (follow up) testing.

Negative - A negative test result means that SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, was not detected in the sample.

It is important that all positive pool group members are individually retested immediately. Positive pool group members should isolate until they can be individually tested.

Is there a potential for false positives?

False positives are possible but very rare

How will reflex testing be performed?

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. Reflex testing will be performed using the BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen test.

Do we still need to wear masks, social distance, etc.?

The implementation of the pooled testing is intended to supplement, not replace, the other mitigation strategies currently in place on campus (e.g. mask wearing, frequent hand washing, physical distancing). Using pooled testing in addition to following safety recommendations (both inside and outside of school) will help students and staff minimize health issues related to COVID-19, and help keep the school community safer.

Questions?

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