



POOLED TESTING WEEKLY UPDATE

April 16th, 2021

HERE'S SOME RECENT DATA FROM OUR POOLED TESTING PROVIDER

CiC Health

This week, CiC Health conducted pooled testing for 338 schools and conducted 6,341 pooled tests comprised of approximately 42,500 students and staff with an average turnaround time: of 10.08 hours

Excerpt from a memo to school superintendents & school leaders from Jeffrey Riley, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education to school leaders:

On January 8, 2021, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) introduced COVID-19 screening testing using a pooled testing approach in the school setting as an additional mitigation strategy for SARS-CoV-2, the first program of its kind nationwide. Pooled testing involves mixing several test samples together in a "batch" or "pool" and then testing the pooled sample with a PCR test for detection of SARS-CoV-2.

Districts and schools participating in the early launch of the program received the test kits, support from one of three testing service providers, and the testing software to track results, all at no cost to them through April 18, 2021. As of April 5, 2021, participating schools have tested 40,987 pools with a pool positivity rate of 0.8 percent. Further, more than 1,000 schools are enrolled in the pooled testing initiative, and more than 343,000 students, educators and staff are eligible to be tested on a weekly basis.

On March 26, 2021, the Baker-Polito Administration announced it would pay for the cost of pooled testing for any interested district or school through the end of the 2020-2021 school year, including summer school.

THIS WEEK'S EDITION:

**AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE
FROM
THE LITTLETON BOARD OF HEALTH**



Littleton, surrounding areas and nationally, are experiencing increased cases of COVID. The number of cases is similar to around Thanksgiving. We are concerned about another outbreak as things open up and the good weather arrives.

In an effort to prevent this, please consider the following:

- The Littleton Board of Health fully supports the School Committee in its efforts of COVID Pooled Testing. For the data to be meaningful, the district is working to continue to increase participation. The Board of Health strongly recommends that more families participate in Pooled Testing.
- Sign up for vaccination as soon as you are eligible.
- Students are transitioning to full in person learning and Spring sports are starting up. If your child participates in sports or extracurricular activities, pooled testing is a way to make sure they won't spread the virus unknowingly to others.

We realize it has been a long year but if everyone can continue all mitigations and get vaccinated, we are hopeful that cases will be significantly reduced.

In your best interest,
The Littleton Board of Health

Regards,
Louise Nichols
Littleton Board of Health
C: 978.758.9653

As of April 15th, the district has completed 18 collections with no positive pools!!
Now that pooled testing has been extended until the end of the school year, staff & students still have many opportunities to participate in pooled testing.
Results have been coming back quickly (averaging 12-16 hours)!

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

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

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



PLEASE NOTE:

- District pooled testing data/results will be shared during the health metrics presentation at the School Committee meeting
- 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)

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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