Classroom Pooling Overview

Taking Back Control
A Resetting of America's Response to Covid-19

The ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

The end is in sight. Yet there is a long way to go.
We need to continue to ramp up Covid-19 testing and put in place policies that recognize the cascading benefits of getting back to work, going back to school and taking back control of our lives.

Since the early days of the pandemic, public health experts have advocated for routine testing of broad populations as a tool for breaking chains of transmission and slowing the spread of the virus to support school reopening. This kind of testing is still important as vaccines begin to be rolled out. You can read more from the Rockefeller Foundation report here.

The Boston Globe

OPINION

Pooled COVID-19 testing can help keep kids in school

The goal is to allow schools to remain in operation, which will benefit the social, emotional, and academic development of children as well as create conditions to fully activate the workforce.

By **Joseph Curtatone** Updated November 17, 2020, 3:00 a.m.

Link

USA TODAY

OPINION *This piece expresses the views of its author(s), separate from those of this publication.*

Why your kids' schools could stay open this winter if we ramped up COVID-19 testing

Widespread testing for COVID-19 in schools can help safely bridge the months between now and when vaccines are readily available.

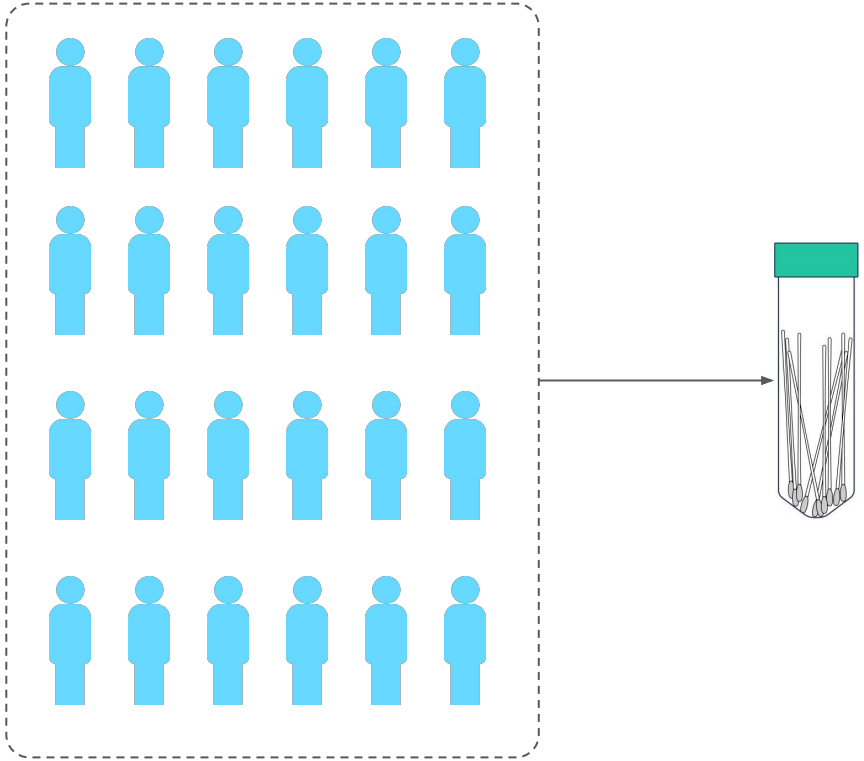
John Driscoll and Jason Kelly Opinion contributors

Published 6:00 a.m. ET Dec. 9, 2020

Link

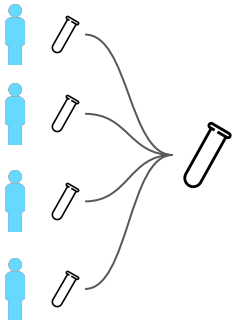
Pooled testing in particular is a way to extend limited resources to provide testing to more schools. Your participation in our program is helping enable pooled testing to reach more classrooms around the country.

What is classroom pooling?

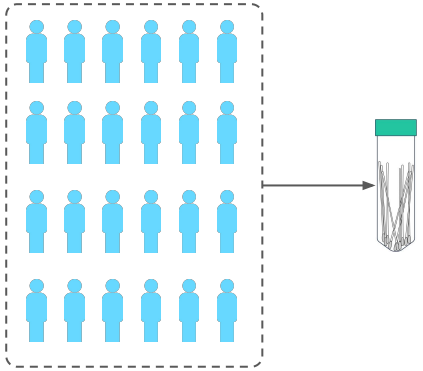


With classroom pooling, an entire classroom (between 5-25 people) can be tested using a **single** molecular test for SARS-CoV-2. This dramatically reduces the cost and operational logistics of classroom testing in K12 schools, making it possible for schools to collect actionable public health data.

Lab pooling vs. Classroom pooling

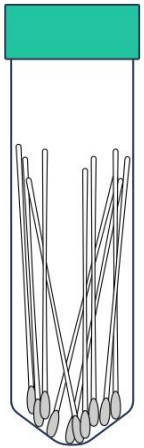


Lab pooling is where separate samples from individuals are randomly mixed in the lab and run in a single reaction. With this method, labs can go back to individual samples from each positive pool to retest. This is a common method that diagnostic labs use to conserve reagents, with recommendations from FDA and CDC to test no more than about five together.



In contrast, classroom pooling combines swabs at the site of collection—inside the classroom. This limits the logistical burden of tracking individual tubes and limits how much each sample is diluted, enabling 25 swabs to be pooled together. Testing everyone in a classroom together as a group provides valuable public health information to the school.

Our Pooled Testing Program



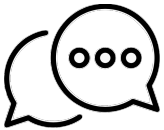
What we provide

Materials necessary to collect samples from any participants

Detailed instructions and onboarding

Shipping labels and materials

Lab processing and data return via an online website



What you provide

Personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff (masks and gloves for anyone handling tubes or swabbing students)

On-site supervision of swabbing, packaging of tubes, and FedEx dropoff

Communication with students and families

Sharing and tracking of informed consent forms

How the Pooling Program Works

Step 1

Getting Started

Your School Team will be introduced to the pooling program and process in a webinar. Consent forms will be provided.

Step 2

Onboarding & Set-Up

Training materials that walk-through of the entire end-to-end process will be provided.

Step 3

Test Day

Your School Team will play key roles in registering kits, observing self-collections, shipping samples, and sharing data with Ginkgo for lab processing.

Step 4

Results

Your school will receive electronic classroom results from Ginkgo up to 48 hours after the lab has received the samples.

Outline of Roles

Testing will occur in classrooms during the normal school session

Parents	***Administrator***	***Teacher***	***Nurse***	***Participants***
				
Provide consents	Sets up testing	Observes students	Assists in collection as required	Provide samples

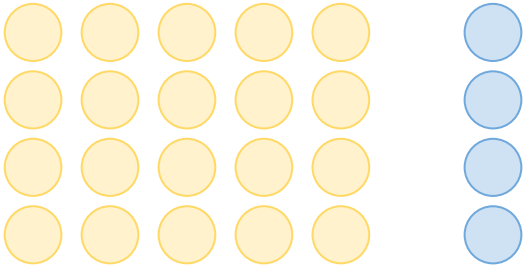
Essential School Team Roles

There are **four roles at a school** that—working together—ensure that this COVID-19 Pooled Classroom Testing Program runs smoothly at the site. Those roles are:

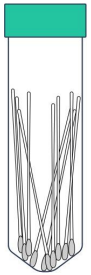
Test Champions	Test Supervisors	Test Observers	Test Takers
(e.g., superintendent / principal)	*(e.g., administrator)*	*(e.g., teacher / school nurse)*	*(e.g., students / teachers)*

Test day process overview

1. The tube is placed open on a desk or table, in a coffee cup or other stand that keeps it upright.



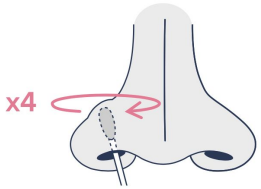
2. Everyone in a classroom receives a sealed nasal swab. A small group (about 3-5) is asked to swab themselves while a teacher observes. After they place their swabs in the open tube, the next group is called. The whole process takes 10-15 minutes for a classroom.

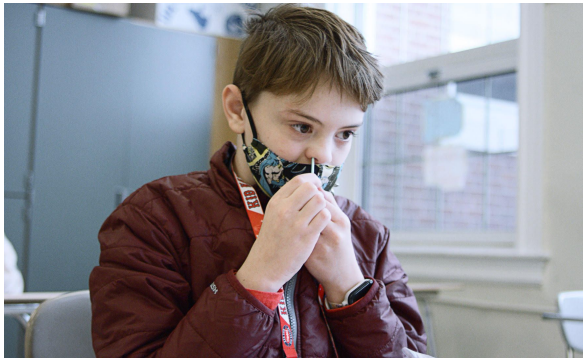


3. The tube is capped, sterilized with an alcohol wipe, and returned to the Test Supervisor for registration and shipment.

Sample Collection

Lower nasal (anterior nares/AN) swabs are painless and easy to self-administer. In our early pooled testing programs, kids as young as kindergarten were able to successfully self-collect swabs.





Detailed instructions for all steps will be provided. A staff member observes students collecting from a distance.

Sample Collection Instructions

Instructions for Test Takers

Nasal Swab Self-Collection Instructions for Pooling

1 Clean Hands
First, make sure that your hands are clean (by using soap or hand sanitizer).

2 Open Swab
Remove the swab from its packaging. Be careful not to touch the tip with your hands.

3 Swab Nose
Gently insert the entire soft tip of the swab into one nostril until you feel a bit of resistance. Using a circular motion, rub the swab around the inside of your nostril **4 times**. You should use medium pressure to push the swab against the inside of your nostril. The swab tip should be touching the inside of your nose throughout. Repeat the process with your other nostril using the same end of the swab as before.

The swab should push against the inside and outside wall of the nostril.

Swab BOTH nostrils.

4 Put Swab in Tube
Put the swab into the collection tube indicated by the supervisor. Finally, sanitize your hands thoroughly.

concentric by GINKGO

Instructions for Test Observers

Nasal Swab Self Collection for Pooling

Test Observer Procedure

1 Clean your hands
Wash your hands before starting, and sanitize your hands before handling the collection tube.

2 Remove the collection tube's cap
Unscrew the cap. To keep the tube upright, the tube can be placed into a holder like a coffee mug.

3 Collect swabs one at a time
Each student will place their swab into the tube with the tip facing down towards the bottom of the tube.

4 Close the tube after 25 swabs
Once you have a **minimum of 5 swabs and a maximum of 25** swabs collected, firmly screw the cap back onto the tube.

5 Clean the tube
Sanitize your hands. Then sanitize the tube using the supplied wipes. Ensure the cap is tight after cleaning.

6 Return the sample to your Test Supervisor at the end of collection

concentric by GINKGO

Questions?

We are here for you! If you have a question, please visit the Support Center or submit a Support Ticket.