

## Project COVID DeteCT - FAQs

### Is the testing program free?

Yes. There will be *NO cost to schools or participating students* as the Department of Health has received federal funding to pay for the testing (insurance will not be collected).

### How do I sign up my child to be part of this testing?

To enroll your child in this testing program you have to *sign an online consent form*. The signed consent will cover the testing throughout the school year.

### What day will the testing take place at my school?

Your school will decide what day of the week testing will take place at your school. Typically, students will be tested the same day and time every week at your school, however, holidays and other school activities may impact this schedule.

### What will a testing day look like?

Your school will create a testing schedule that is nondisruptive to the regular school day. Participating students from each class will either walk together in a chaperoned group or be called individually to walk to the designated testing location. When the testing is completed, the students will go back to the classroom.

### How long will the testing take each week?

The collection of each sample is *less than 15 seconds* (5 swirls in each nostril) and conducted by a trained Medical Assistant. The entire testing process, including administrative work, is less than 2-3 minutes per student.

### Will students swab themselves?

*Samples will be collected from students by trained Medical Assistants.* This is considered to be the best practice to ensure adequate samples are collected, which helps to prevent and minimize inconclusive results.

### How does the pooled testing process work?

- Student samples are individually collected. The lab combines, or pools, samples from 5 students into one test. Results will be reported for the entire pool. For example, if the pool is negative, it means that all students are negative, however, if the pool is positive, it means that at least one student could be positive in the pool.
- If a pool tests positive the lab will “reflex” each individual sample to a single PCR test to determine which of the members are positive. Since the lab collected individual samples at the school, there will be no need to recollect any samples before the reflex test can be processed.
- This method of pooled testing is called “media pooled” testing. While more labor intensive, it is the most accurate form of pooled testing.

### Will the pools include samples from the same classroom?

- We will do our best to process the samples in the order they come into the lab, which will be based on the school testing protocol and as such the order students were lined up when the samples were collected.
- Whenever possible we will test 5 samples in each pool. Therefore, it is likely that for example if a student in class 3A gets tested right before a student in class 3B, their samples could end up in the same pool.

### **Is this an invasive nasopharyngeal swab?**

No. This is a comfortable and *shallow nasal swab* (approximately ½ inch into each nostril). It is not the nasopharyngeal that goes six inches up the nose, commonly referred to as the brain “tickler”. We have tested thousands of children with very positive feedback.

### **What is the risk of a “false positive”?**

- The sensitivity of the test we use is 100% with an LOD of 500 copies/mL. This basically means *that the chance of a false positive is very low.*
- Please keep in mind that while a pool may be positive, typically only one sample in the pool is actually positive. The reflexed individual tests are then used to determine which sample or samples are positive and which are negative.

### **How will the lab results be communicated?**

- Every participating student will be able to create a confidential HIPAA compliant patient portal where their results will be published and stored. The parent email used on the consent form will be the email used to communicate the patient portal information.
- Negative pool results (*not the positive pool result*) and positive and negative individual reflex results will be posted in the students’ patient portals.
- Positive individual reflex results will be communicated to the school, so that the school can contact the applicable students for quarantine instructions.

### **How long before I receive the lab result?**

- Negative pool results will be reported within 24 hours after collection of the sample.
- Reflexed individual results (negative and positive) will be reported within 24 additional hours.

### **What is the school responsible for?**

- Communicating the Project COVID DeteCT testing program to parents, students, and staff.
- Coordinating and scheduling the testing program with the designated testing partner. Schools will be automatically paired with a testing partner.
- Designating a testing place in the school.
- Communicating the positive individual reflex results to the applicable students/families and adhere to the school’ ‘s contact tracing process.