



## Codman Academy Charter Public School POOLED TESTING UPDATE -March 2021

### KEY MESSAGE FOR FAMILIES

**Pooled testing is a COVID screening tool that is approved by the FDA, and supported by the MA Department of Education and the Department of Public Health, for its implementation in the schools.**

- Pooled testing is a process where sample from multiple people (of all ages) are processed at once to detect the presence of SARS Co V-2, the virus that causes COVID 19.
- This testing provides one layer of protection that helps students and staff attend school in person safely.
- Pooled Testing is a powerful medical tool to increase efficiency with COVID testing, as it allows labs to test more samples in a shorter amount of time.
- Pooled testing can quickly detect, trace, and isolate COVID-19 positive students or staff.
- This quick and easy testing method will help us lower the risk of transmission and allow us to have more consistent in-person learning time for our students.
- Once a week, the school nurse will collect sample for pool testing from all staff and students, who are present at the school.
- Testing is quick and easy and is not painful or invasive. It is a nasal test that gently swabs the lower inner nostril, and most students should not feel any major discomfort.
- Our school staff including the school nurse will be talking to our students to provide them an overview of the pooled testing and address any questions or concerns.
- Participating in the pooled testing program is free.
- Project Beacon is the lab providing testing services for Codman Academy. The test results should be received within 24-48 hours.
- If the pool result is positive, individuals will be contacted and scheduled for reflex (follow up) testing.
- School will use BinaxNOW a rapid antigen test that is designed to provide results within 15 minutes.
- Based on the results, the school nurse will follow up with recommendations and support.
- No personal health information is provided to the health department during the first round of testing.
- Test results will only be shared with the Department of Public Health IF a student or staff tests positive on an individual follow-up test.
- All health and safety protocols will be strictly followed.

### **We need your support:**

- We are requesting all guardians/parents to sign a one-time pooled testing consent form for their students.
- Please go to [Codman Academy website](#) for additional information on pooled testing and consent form.
- Your timely support and consent is essential in including the student in the pooled testing and keeping everyone healthy at the school. Please respond as soon as you receive the consent forms in your email inbox.