



Codman Academy Charter Public School

POOLED TESTING

Frequently Asked Questions

1) Why is our school using Pooled Testing?

To safely get our students back to in-person learning. Codman is joining many schools across the commonwealth in starting a weekly COVID-19 screening and testing program to help keep our students, staff and community safe and help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Regular COVID-19 testing of students and staff will help us lower the risk of the disease in our school by finding positive cases of COVID-19 quickly. The testing program will also help identify positive cases in people who do not show any symptoms. Testing will allow us to have regular in-person learning while ensuring everyone is safe and healthy.

2) What is needed for students to participate?

All parents/guardians are required to provide "one time" consent, by signing a consent form that will be emailed to you. These consent forms are being sent via "DocuSign" and are really easy to read and sign. You do not need to install any app or program to provide your consent and signature.

3) How is the test sample collected, is it uncomfortable?

It is a self, anterior nasal swab. Staff will collect samples on all students. Staff can swab themselves if they wish to do so. This is NOT an invasive swab and the process should be over within 10-15 seconds.

4) What will this pooled test tell me?

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

5) Where will the test be analyzed?

The Project Beacon will provide lab testing. MA DPH provided Abbott BinaxNOW test kits to the school.

6) 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.

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

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

8) 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.

9) How will parents be notified of pooled results?

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

10) My student is in lower school grade and they may not have been exposed to COVID, should they still be tested?

Yes, all students of all ages should be tested in order to make this effort to keep every safe successful. The test is authorized for a people of all ages, including children. It is hard to know who among us has been exposed to COVID in the past, regardless; we all are at the risk of transmitting the virus unknowingly and without any symptoms.

11) How are test results interpreted?

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 pool group members are individually retested immediately. Pool group members should isolate until they can be individually tested.

12) Is there a potential for false positives?

False positives are possible but very rare.

13) How will reflex or follow up testing be performed?

The school has signed up to use Binax NOW Rapid Antigen Test for conducting follow up testing during school hours, at the school.

14) What happens after the follow up/reflex test comes back positive?

The school will work immediately to start the contact tracing process. Assistance from local health officials will be requested as suitable. Individuals who have tested positive for COVID on BinaxNOW, will be required to isolate themselves at home. It is recommended that they get tested for COVID using PCR test (most commonly available test).

15) Can school provide PCR testing at the school if someone wants to get tested?

No, but we have our long-term partner Codman Square Health Center that is providing COVID testing and COVID vaccine (to eligible people). The COVID-19 testing is taking place at the Russell Auditorium on 70 Talbot Ave, Dorchester, MA 02124. Please call 617-822-8271 to get an appointment.

16) 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 safe.

17) How is the information about my student kept safe?

No personal health information is provided to anyone outside of the district during the first round of pooled testing.

Have more questions: Please contact school nurse, Candace DeStefano or email her at cdestefano@codmanacademy.org, or call at 617-287-0700