Classroom Pooling Information Session For Maine

May 11th, 2021
For Today:

1) Prior Webinar Recap
2) Program Details - Getting Started
3) Maine DOE Testing Guidance & FAQ documents
4) Participating Schools Tracker
1) Prior Webinar Recap
Maine is providing a **fully integrated service** for districts and schools

**Component 1**
**Pooled Testing**

*Pooled testing is the foundation of the program.* This approach is designed to minimize the burden on school staff and allows 5-25 individuals to be tested as a group.

**Component 2**
**Individual Diagnostics**

Maine is providing Abbott BinaxNOW (primary) or PCR (secondary) for individual diagnostic follow-on testing.

**Component 3**
**Staffing Support**

*Tier 1* - Schools use existing school resources

*Tier 2* - Schools access local staffing support through the program according to their needs and at the option of the state.

**Component 4**
**Program Admin and Reporting**

End-to-end reporting, dashboards and administration at State, District and School levels.
Pooled testing enables testing “every student, every week”

All participants in a classroom swab their noses with short swabs.

Every swab is dropped into one tube (“pooling” step). This pool is then run as a single test.

Only positive pools result in further action.

STEP 1
Self Swab
25 students (and teachers!) in a class self-swab and drop their swabs into a single tube.

STEP 2
Test the Pool
That tube is then run using one test, and the classroom is provided with one result.

STEP 3
Get Results
Only positive pools result in next steps, which vary by school.

Test Result: Negative
WHAT IS Pooled Testing

The entire student population is already split into separate interaction pods, i.e. classrooms.
It’s a method that combines samples from everyone in a classroom into one specimen that’s then tested, allowing for increased testing capacity at lower costs.
Key benefits of classroom pooling: simplifies logistics, reduces costs, and enables schools to make informed public health decisions.

Affordable

Lowest cost option to test massive numbers of students across the country.

Simple

Self-swab process for kids as young as kindergarten. Test an entire classroom in less than 15 minutes a week, with an easy online portal to get results.

Peace of Mind

Confidence for your school community

Empowering

Kids and school communities feel that they are part of the solution.
WHAT'S THE Test Day Process

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

2. After they place their swabs in the open tube, the next group is called.

3. The tube is capped, sterilized with an alcohol wipe, sealed in a biohazard bag and placed in the shipping box.

Everyone receives a sealed nasal swab.

A small group (about 3-5) is asked to swab themselves while a teacher or other adult observes.

The whole process takes 10 - 15 minutes to complete per classroom.
What Happens if There’s a Positive Pool

The solution will look a little different for each school based on unique circumstances, but some options include:

FOLLOW UP TESTING

School Testing
Rapid antigen tests during or after school; on-site collection for lab based tests

Community Testing
Government funded tests in-person, at-home, or administered at pharmacies, clinics, or doctor’s offices

Isolate with Care
Establish protocols for who may need to quarantine and for how long following public health department guidance.
2) Program Details – Getting Started
How The Testing Process Works

**STEP 1**
Sign Up

Schools enroll with the State at:
https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=q6g_QX0qYkubzeoaiy-GTseHDCzroMNHqsaKj3vr645UQIZZMTO8l4RudGN1RINjBOVFJGNziPTS4u

**STEP 2**
Onboarding

Onboarded by Concentric and receive everything they need, including consent forms. Instructions and video tutorials are provided through the Concentric website.

**STEP 3**
Test Day

Self swab, register pools, and ship samples to our lab network for testing.

**STEP 4**
Results & Follow-Up

Access results through the Concentric website within 48-hours of test day. Follow-up on positive pools (generally <1% of the time) per state SOP.
How It Works
School nurses may be helpful if some test takers need assistance. This may include students who are very young or have special needs.
Why is participation important?

Community buy-in
Families must provide their consent for their student to participate.

Slow spread
Higher participation rates can help identify more potential infections so you can take action to mitigate the spread and enable better decision making.

Confidence in your data
The more people that participate in your program, the more confident you can be in the data and reporting you get back.
CONSENTS

You will have to offer multiple opportunities for families to consent more than once (and in more than one way) to get a high participation rate.

Clear and frequent communication from schools to families is more important than ever before. Parents and families should easily be able to find details of your testing program in many channels and with a steady stream of reminders.

Think of communicating about pooled testing to families like you would communicate a snow day or a weather-related cancelation. When your school has a snow day, what are all of the tools you use to notify your parents?
Use multiple communication channels to encourage your families to participate.

- Text + Phone
- Videos
- Stickers
- Email Templates
- Social Templates
- Newsletter
Our consent form is universal.

It covers all Concentric testing modalities (pooling and individual diagnostic testing) and has been translated into 23 languages.
What We Provide

Ensure that all of the Concentric provided materials have arrived prior to the first test day.

1. Sample collection tubes (one per classroom or pooling station)
2. Swabs (individually wrapped)
3. Plastic biohazard bags with an included absorbent pad for tube storage
4. Alcohol prep wipes
5. Pre-labeled return boxes for shipping samples
6. One barcode scanner (per testing site)

Review Onboarding Sessions and Support Center
Navigating your barcode scanner

Barcode scanners are essential to your testing day, so that each test is registered and properly labeled to shipped back to our labs.

- Each school will receive one 2D scanner, a multifunctional USB tool
- Any computer with a USB Port-A or USB Port-C should be compatible with the scanner. *(No software/downloads required)*
- Kit registration ensures that the Concentric support team can connect your samples to each pool and ensures the Concentric support team can track your samples
What You Provide

Review the below materials to ensure you are set up for test day.

- Laptop (with USB-A or USB-C port) and WiFi access
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) & cleaning supplies
  - Masks
  - Hand sanitizer
  - Disinfectant solution
  - Paper towels
  - Gloves
- On-site supervision of swabbing, packaging of tubes, and FedEx dropoff
- Communication with students and families
- Sharing and tracking of consent forms
In this example, Test Takers can swab and deposit their samples individually or by small groups. The room can be arranged in any configuration but should include one Swab Station and one Collection Station spaced 8 ft. apart.

**Classroom Location, Setup A**

Swabbing Station with a Collection Station

**Testing Steps**

1. Test Takers sanitize their hands and then swab their noses at the Swab Station.
   If the classroom has more than one Swab Station, multiple Test Takers can be called up at the same time.

2. After swabbing, Test Takers drop their swab in the collection tube at the Collection Station.
   The Test Observer watches over the stations. Only one Collection Station is needed per classroom.

3. After depositing their swab, students sanitize their hands and return to their seats.
Central Location, Setup A
Commonal Space with Multiple Stations

In this example, pools of Test Takers go to a central location to swab their noses. The location could be a gym, conference room, or any other large space. The space can be arranged in any configuration and can include more than one Collection Station. If multiple pods are in the space at the same time, instruct each group to a particular Collection Station to deposit their samples.

Testing Steps

1. A pool of Test Takers enters the room, are registered at the Swab Station, and sanitize their hands. The Test Supervisor instructs them to take a swab and directs them to designated spots in the space.

2. At the designated spots, Test Takers swab their noses while Test Observer watches.

3. Once done, Test Takers drop their samples in the collection tube at the Collection Station, sanitize their hands, and return to their seats.
Printable Materials

Instructions for Swabbing Your Nose

1. Clean your hands.
   Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer.

2. Open the swab.
   Peel the wrapper open like a packet of string cheese.
   Be careful — don’t touch the cotton tip.

3. Swab your nose.
   Put the cotton tip into one nostril. Be gentle and stop when you feel push-back.
   Rub the swab around your nostril in a circle 4 times. Make sure the cotton tip touches the inside of your nose the whole time. Count, “1, 2, 3, 4—switch!” Then do the same in your other nostril.

4. Put the swab in the tube.
   Carefully place the swab in the tube. Booger side down, not up!
   And be sure not to touch the tube. Then, clean your hands. You’re done! Woohoo!
**Printable Materials**

**Instructions for Supervising Pooled Testing**

1. **Clean your hands.**
   Wash your hands before starting. Clean your hands before each time you handle the collection tube.

2. **Remove the collection tube 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 test taker 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 again. Then sanitize the tube using the supplied wipes. Ensure the cap is tight after cleaning.

6. **Return samples.**
   The Test Supervisor or Test Champion will take the tube and place it in a designated biohazard bag.
Printable Materials

Instructions for Preparing a Shipment

1. Scan the tube barcodes.
   After sample collection, scan the barcode on each sample collection tube, and indicate the number of swabs on the Concentric website.
   Please verify that the barcode on the tube matches data in the website after scanning.

2. Box up the biohazard bag.
   Place swab filled tubes into the biohazard bag and seal (up to 15 tubes per bag) with the absorbent pad included. If you have lost your biohazard bag you may use a ziploc bag with a folded paper towel inside as a replacement.
   Place the bag (filled with tubes and the absorbent pad) into the labelled return box and seal the box, making sure not to cover any labels up with tape.

3. Stick your return label to the outside of the box (do not cover UN3373 sticker).
   Arrange for a FedEx pickup or drop off the package in a FedEx box.
   To arrange for a FedEx pickup, call 1-800-463-3339 or drop off the package in a FedEx box.
   If dropping off at a FedEx location, be sure to ask ahead of time if they accept Category B substances.

CRITICAL SHIPPING DETAILS
As these are Category B substances, tubes MUST be placed in a sealed bag with an absorbent pad and that sealed bag MUST be placed in a rigid box.

UN3373 label must be clearly displayed on the outside of the box, with nothing obscuring it.

You must ship samples in the provided Concentric return box; if you are low on boxes, please visit support.concentricbio.com to reorder.
Avoiding Test Result Delays

Keep in mind these Tips + Tricks to avoid any testing delays.

- Fill out the End of Test Day Form at the end of every test day
- Make sure ALL tubes are registered, prior to shipping to the lab
- Place all swabs in pooled tube “booger side down”
- Voided tubes will not be processed by our lab and should be discarded
- At least 5 samples (no more than 25) per tube
What Happens if There’s a Positive Pool

The solution will look a little different for each school based on unique circumstances, but some options for a positive pooled sample result include:

- **FOLLOW-UP TESTING**
  
  - **Community Testing**
    - Government funded tests in-person, at-home, or administered at pharmacies, clinics, or doctor’s offices

- **FOLLOW-UP TESTING**
  
  - **School Testing**
    - Rapid antigen tests during or after school; on-site collection for lab based tests

- **Isolate with Care**
  
  Establish protocols for who may need to quarantine and for how long following public health department guidance.
Individual testing is used in support of pooled testing - leverages existing Antigen and PCR programs

Rapid antigen testing: Abbott BinaxNOW test

Individual PCR testing: saliva-based test
5) Maine DOE’s Pooled Testing Guidance & FAQ documents
Recommend pools sizes of 10 or less for yellow or red districts

SAU/schools must have a reflex testing program in place, and are encouraged to use BinaxNOW test kits

The application is in the Maine COVID-19 Toolkit at:
https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=q6q_XQ0qYkubzeoajy-GTseHDczroMNHqsaKj3vr645UQ1Z
ZMTbOSl4RUdGN1RINjBOVFJGNzIPTS4

SAUs/schools must read and agree to the Statement of Assurances at:

One application per SAU/approved private school

PPE requirements for collecting/observing specimen collection
Key Program FAQs

3 Does the entire SAU or Private school need to participate?
SAUs and private schools are strongly encouraged to involve all students and staff in pooled testing, excluding any individuals who do not opt in by providing a signed consent form. However, SAUs and private schools may choose to launch this program with a smaller subset of schools, grades, students, or staff and scale up to a school-wide or unit-wide model at a future date. If SAUs and private schools choose to only involve staff in a pool, however, they are limited to a maximum of 5 individual samples per pool and must have BinaxNOW tests available for immediate Follow Up Testing.

5 Does an SAU or Private school need to have an electronic health record system to participate?
No, an SAU or private school does not need to have an electronic health record system to participate. The Pooled Testing Provider will provide all necessary technology platforms for Pooled PCR Testing and the state will provide access to REDCap to report all BinaxNOW Follow-Up Testing.

7 Is there funding available to cover the administration and record keeping associated with testing, or is funding just to pay for testing of pooled samples?
Funding does not currently cover pooled testing administration and record keeping by a school/unit employee. Funding from DHHS for pooled testing covers three areas:
1. Onsite specimen collection and testing coordination support: Staff contracted through the vendor to assist with implementation, on-the-ground operations, and/or specimen collection (if requested and available).
2. Pooled testing processing services: test kits for pooled testing, vendor administrative fees, and BinaxNOW follow-up tests.
3. Specimen transportation: either courier or shipping from test collection site (e.g., school) to laboratory.
Key Program FAQs continued

8 Is the Abbott BinaxNOW accurate enough to be used as a follow up to the pooled test, especially for asymptomatic children?
Yes. The Maine Center for Disease Control (ME CDC) endorses its use in Follow Up Testing. No test is 100% accurate. BinaxNOW tests are effective at picking up those individuals with high viral loads (assumed to be most infectious) and are adequate for this purpose. Anyone who develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should get tested, even if they have recently received a negative result.

10 Is pooled testing an effective strategy in areas with low transmission rates?
Yes. Pooled testing is an effective strategy in areas with low transmission. With lower COVID-19 rates, there may be fewer follow-up tests. This can increase staff and community confidence in returning to school while incurring much lower costs than individual testing.
COVID-19 ToolKit

The FrontLine WarmLine is available for school staff: The volunteers on the other end of the line can help callers address concerns with anxiety, irritability, poor sleep, grief or worry and, if needed, connect them with additional supports.

Contact them from 8 AM to 8 PM, 7 days a week by calling (207) 221-8196 or text the word "frontline" to 898-211 for support.

Quick Links:
- State of Maine FAQ for out of state travel
- Framework for Reopening Schools and Returning to In-Person Instruction
Maine DOE Testing SOP

Recent DOE Updates

- 5/5/21 Planning for Vaccination of Youth 12-15
- 4/29/21 Graduation Guidance Updated
- 4/27/21 Free Testing and Support for Pool Testing in Schools
- 4/23/21 Updates on PPE/fraudulent PPE disposal/hotline hours/testing options
- 4/8/21 (updated 4/14/21) Travel Quick Reference Guide

Positive Cases

- Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Positive COVID-19 Cases in Schools
  - Sara Alert Info
  - DOE Close Contact Tracing Template (Maine DOE 1-5-21)
  - School Nurse Duties for Positive Case Additional Information (Maine DOE | PDF)
  - MeAAP Algorithm (Updated MeAAP Algorithm | 12/11/20)

Safety Guidance

- Maine CDC FAQ for out of state travel & Maine DOE Travel Cheat Sheet
- Disinfecting wipes | Updated 11/4/20
- Utilization of alternative sites | Updated 11/4/20
- Use of Tents | Updated 12/29/20
- Use of Hand Sanitizer in Educational Buildings | Updated 11/4/20
Maine DOE Pooled & BinaxNOW Testing Detail Pages

https://www.maine.gov/doe/covid-19/toolkit
6) Participating Schools Tracker
Initial Maine Districts & Schools Participating (as of May 10th)

### Already Testing
- Hebron Academy (since March)

### Summer School Program
- RSU16

### Spring 2021
- Acadia Academy
- Lisbon Public Schools
- York
- Sweetser School-Belfast
- Glenn Stratton Learning Center
- Mount Desert Island Regional School System
- Fiddlehead School
- Lewiston

### Academic Year 2021–22
- Bridgton Academy
- RSU63
- Berwick Academy
- Hebron Academy
- Maine Arts Academy
- Kittery School District
Enroll with the State at:
https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=q6g_QX0oYkubzeoajy-GTseHDczoMNHgqaKj3vr645UQlIZMthOSIi4RUdGN1rINjBOVFJGNzIPTS4u

Get Started Today
Thank you!