Classroom Pooling
Information Session
For Maine
For Today:

1) Why Classroom Pooled Testing?
2) How Pooling Works
3) Maine’s Integrated Testing Program
4) What Happens With Positive Pools?
5) School & Community Support Materials
1) Why Classroom Pooled Testing?
Pooled testing makes testing possible for every student in America, every week.

A COVID-19 classroom pooled testing program helps enable Maine districts and schools to safeguard the health and wellbeing of teachers, students, and their community.
Benefits of pooled testing are widely lauded:

**POLITICO** 2.18.21

'Boogers down': Biden’s bid to reopen schools may hinge on ‘pooled’ testing

**USA TODAY** 3.20.21

Schools already testing students and staff for coronavirus say it’s crucial to in-person class: 'It's worth it'

**AXIOS** 3.10.21

Schools bet on pool testing to keep classrooms safe

**Boston Herald** 1.8.21

Massachusetts teachers unions laud Charlie Baker’s new coronavirus pool testing program for schools

**The Baltimore Sun** 2.23.21

Baltimore City schools planning to test students and staff in schools for COVID-19 weekly

**The Atlantic** 3.4.21

Massachusetts Actually Might Have a Way to Keep Schools Open
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.
Testing instills confidence in your school community.

Teachers, administrators, students, and families feel safer and more reassured with routine testing.

“Having a negative test is a morale booster. People walk taller and feel more secure. [...] It lifted the fear.”

— MA School Superintendent

“Most of our families were really excited [...] They welcomed it. It made them feel safer which is the ultimate goal.”

— Baltimore School Principal

“Just to stay on top of the cases, know what's going on, and then have a plan when things do go wrong is the only way to keep going”

— Milwaukee Public Schools Parent

“82% of Wellesley Public Schools staff were reassured in the safety of returning to school following the results of baseline testing.”

— WPS Survey Results
2) How Pooling Works
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.

POOL #0001
Test Result: **Negative**
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.
WHAT IS Pooled Testing

The entire student population is already split into separate interaction pods, i.e. classrooms.
POOLING IS **Fast, Easy, And Cost Effective**

An entire classroom self-swabs in *just 15 minutes*, for **minimal disruption to classroom learning**.

**AS EASY AS Picking Your Nose**

The pooling process is **simple, intuitive and straightforward** for teachers and school staff, too.

"The test was not bad at all. It just tickles."

Pooling lets us test students for a **fraction of the cost of individual testing**, and **at no cost to families**.

Quotes were obtained from participants in a free pilot testing program.
Pooled Testing In Action

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT  Collins Middle School, MA
3) Maine’s Integrated Testing Program
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.
How The Testing Service Works

STEP 1
Sign Up

Schools enroll with the State, then are onboarded by Concentric and receive everything they need, including consent forms.

STEP 2
Onboarding

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

Access results through the Concentric website within 48-hours of test day.
WHO'S INVOLVED

On Test Day

Before Test Day

Families
- PROVIDES CONSENT

On Test Day

Administrator
- SETS UP TESTING

Teacher
- OBSERVES STUDENTS

Teacher or other Adult

Nurse
- ASSISTS WITH COLLECTION

School nurses or support staff may be helpful if some test takers need assistance. This may include students who are very young or have special needs.

Testing will occur during normal school hours.
WE HELP YOU TO  Make Your Testing Program A Success

**We Provide**

1. **Materials** necessary to collect samples from any participants
2. **Detailed instructions**, onboarding training, and supporting resources
3. Shipping labels, materials, and **any costs associated with returning samples**
4. Lab processing and **data return via an online website**

**You Provide**

1. **Personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff** (masks and gloves for anyone handling tubes or swabbing students)
2. **On-site supervision** of swabbing, packaging of tubes, and FedEx dropoff
3. **Direct communication with students and families**
4. Sharing and tracking of **informed consent forms**
WHAT'S THE Test Day Process

The whole process takes 10 - 15 minutes to complete per classroom.

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.
Example class testing setup

Students remain socially distanced, pulling their masks down momentarily during the sample collection process.
Kids make testing day fun.

Kids feel empowered to self-swab, help their community, and teach others.

“Swabs go ‘Boogers down’”
— York Academy

“You only have to go up to the squishy part of your nose.”
— Park Street School

“We have a jingle: ‘1, 2, 3, 4 - switch it over, do 4 more.’”
— Sharon Public Schools

“It’s a free chance to pick your nose, and no one is going to yell at you.”
— Sharon Public Schools

Quotes were obtained from participants in a free pilot testing program.
4) What Happens With Positive Pools?
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.
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
Positive Pool Results - What We’ve Seen

~1% of pools nationwide result in a positive

~80% of positive individuals in a pool are identified with Rapid Antigen test on 1st pass
5) School & Community Support
Our community engagement team supports launch at every step

1. **Opt-in** to the state program

2. **Manage district and school onboarding and questions** about the program

3. **Onboard staff and teachers** with our easy to use virtual training set, and/or select for further outside support through the program

4. **Share consent forms, resources, and other communications with parents** via our website, parent newsletters, school portal, etc.

5. **Get students ready to swab** with our online materials and videos
Training materials and support center help schools get started with testing quickly and easily

Training videos and webinars

Unboxing Materials

Role-specific User Guides with Visual Instructions

Checklists for Before, During, and After Test Day

Testing Equipment Ready to Use out of the Box

Support Center with Reference Articles and Live Support
Create Engaging Content for Students

Educational Comic Books!

Coloring sheets!
Create Engaging Content for Students

Stickers too!
Provide Information for Families

Hello and welcome to your pooled testing program!

Our institution at Concentric by Ginkgo is to make testing procedures for every student in America. We use a method called pooling that dramatically lowers costs, without sacrificing accuracy, making it possible to test every student every week.

Why should we test for COVID-19 in schools? Why should my student participate in pooled testing?

You know the old saying “knowledge is power”. This is especially true in the current climate of COVID-19. By testing our students, we are empowering them to take control of their health and make informed decisions about their safety and the safety of those around them. Without knowing if you have COVID-19, you may spread the virus to others in your school or community, which can disrupt learning and prevent learning.

What is classroom pooling? How does it work?

Classroom pooling tests up to 25 people using one test. All students in a class, pool, or cohort send their own saliva or nasal swabs in a single tube that’s pooled together. After the test is performed, everyone receives their result in a single report. This means that students can take the test at home without needing to visit the school.

How accurate is Concentric’s test?

Molecular tests like ours use pooling tests are typically highly accurate in detecting the virus. In fact, they are more sensitive than standard PCR tests. Our test has a sensitivity of 95% and a specificity of 99%. The positive results in our study showed that the individual who tested positive was indeed infected with COVID-19. Each of our 16 partners has also validated their test by comparing performance to an FDA-authorized “gold standard” PCR test.

What happens if my child’s pool is positive?

If a pooled test comes back positive, it means that one or more individuals in the pool tested positive for COVID-19. We take privacy concerns very seriously and we will never test results for any reason other than to help your school make informed decisions about safeguarding its community and continuing in-person learning.

Is my child’s privacy protected?

We take privacy concerns very seriously and we will never test results for any reason other than to help your school make informed decisions about safeguarding its community and continuing in-person learning.

What if I have other questions?

For more information on Concentric by Ginkgo visit our website at www.concentricbyginkgo.com, where we have answers to many FAQs. Or, check out our blog www.concentricbyginkgo.com/blog, which we update regularly with new information.
Share Weekly Newsletters
Write Posts for School Communities to Share

**Explain Like I'm Five: How Does Your COVID-19 Pooled Test Work?**

I got a negative result, but... what... exactly does that mean?

**MARCH 18, 2021**

At Concentric, we're really proud to provide routine testing for schools across the country. But have you ever wondered what happens between swabbing your nose and getting your results back? We'd like to give you a look inside our labs and demystify the experience.

**Getting Back to In-Person Learning: Pandemic Educator Resources**

See how you can educate students about all aspects of the pandemic, whatever grade level or subject you teach!

**FEBRUARY 16, 2021**

Being a teacher can be challenging at the best of times, let alone during a pandemic. If you're a teacher who knows this in your bones, read on. As more and more students head back to class, they're counting on you for accurate information about the state of our rapidly changing world. Meanwhile, administrators are urging you to strike the balance between good information and precautionary doses.

**From Our Community: The “Super COVID Killers”**

Check out this fun video made by the Merrimack Regional School District

**FEBRUARY 26, 2021**

One of the best things about providing testing for K-12 schools is how educators always find some way to make testing fun. Check out this video made by a school district in Massachusetts—“Super COVID Killers”—about how the whole community came together to join the fight against COVID-19.

And don't forget to share your own vids with us by emailing...

**Why Ginkgo Cares About Genetic Privacy**

Protecting Your Genetic Privacy

**MARCH 18, 2021**

Our products were built with genetic privacy as a core ethical and design principle. We’d like to explain a bit more about our company, how we do our testing, and why we don’t collect human genetic information.

There are many reasons why people should care about their genetic privacy and who might have access to the sequences of their DNA. We take all privacy concerns very seriously, and we developed our posted test with privacy as...
Thank you!