

POOLED TESTING OVERVIEW

SURVEILLANCE TESTING FOR COVID-19

- Voluntary, weekly PCR, (gold standard of testing), Covid-19 testing using an anterior nasal swab. Barely inserted into the nose and not painful.
- Many swabs go together in Pools/batches and are sent out to a Laboratory for identification of COVID-19 infection.
- Pools are reported 24-48 hours later and are either positive or negative.
- If a pool is positive, each person in the pool is individually tested using the Rapid Antigen tests at school that result within 15 minutes. This is to identify which person or persons in the pool are infected and respond appropriately. Quarantine is not required while waiting for your rapid antigen test. The nurse will perform tests ASAP once aware of a positive pool.
- If a pool is negative, no action is required and we carry on with the next weekly testing when scheduled.
- A person with COVID-19 will need to isolate for 10 days and meet the criteria by CDC to end their isolation. Contact tracing occurs to identify who meets the definition of a close contact. (15 minutes within 6ft in a 24/hr period cumulatively, or direct contact with excretions or secretions).
- Identified close contacts from a classroom exposure **will not** have to quarantine from school or school related activities for the 10 days if they are participating in the pooled testing program or are fully vaccinated. In addition, students do not have to quarantine from school if school has a universal masking policy in place and were 3 ft away from the person who tested positive.
- A person who has tested + for COVID-19 in the past 90 days is excluded from quarantining unless they become symptomatic.
- Persons with symptoms of COVID-19, with no known exposure can be tested using the Rapid tests as needed. This allows school attendance if feeling well enough to do so and not otherwise excluded based on the pre-screening tool for school attendance.

For additional information, the entire standard operating procedure for pk-12 schools relating to investigation of Covid-19 can be found on the Maine doe website.

Call or email for questions or additional info
tlebeda@strattonschool.org or 246-2283

