

Lincoln Public Schools

Pooled Testing Program Overview

Presented to School Committee 3/4/21



Why Pool Testing?

- Build staff and family confidence in the safety of in-person learning
- Identify asymptomatic individuals
- Provide opportunity to respond to potential community spread
- Support the continued desire to provide in-person learning

What is Pool Testing?

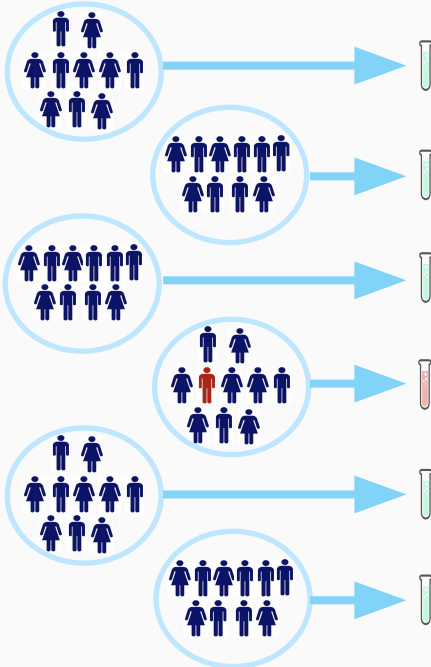
Pool testing reduces test resources by grouping participant samples together

Test method



PCR test with high sensitivity (24-48h turnaround time) will be sent out

- All members of a classroom cohort “pooled” together in a single test
- Tutors, secondary learning coaches, and instructional assistants will join the classroom pool they are with on the testing day/time
- Additional staff will be assigned to specific pools



If a pool tests positive, follow-up testing will be done to find positive individual

A positive pool will test individuals to initiate contact tracing and alert close contacts



Abbott BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen Test will be used on-site as a Point of Care Test (POCT)

- Results in 15-30 minutes
- Less sensitive than PCR testing but high specificity
 - High specificity is good to minimize false positives

Existing contact tracing procedures followed once positive individual identified:

- Classroom cohort members and siblings of the positive individual enter quarantine.
- “Additional staff” in the pool that are not close contacts will not require quarantine.
- If one of the “additional staff” is identified as the positive, the classroom cohort will not need to quarantine, if there was no close contact with the staff member.

Pool Testing/Sample Collectors

- Three sample collectors for the district (nursing students)
 - Tuesday-Lincoln Campus (classroom cohort/staff pools and 4 pools of staff not attached to a cohort classroom)
 - Two sample collectors working together
 - Wednesday-Hanscom Campus-(classroom cohort/staff pools and 4 pools of staff not attached to a cohort classroom)
 - Two sample collectors working together
 - Thursday & Friday-one sample collector to support follow up testing and preparation for pool administration for the following week (prepare kits and inventory of all materials)
- Sample collectors-organize the materials and pools,collect all samples to scan to the lab, and prepare for pick up
- Sample collectors swab PK-1 students
- Sample collectors administer the BinaxNOW along with the nurses

Participation rates:

52% of eligible students

- 72% of Lincoln campus students

- 33% of Hanscom campus students

73% of eligible staff

Count of individuals tested:

578 asymptomatic individuals tested

- 403 students tested
- 175 staff tested

Test results:

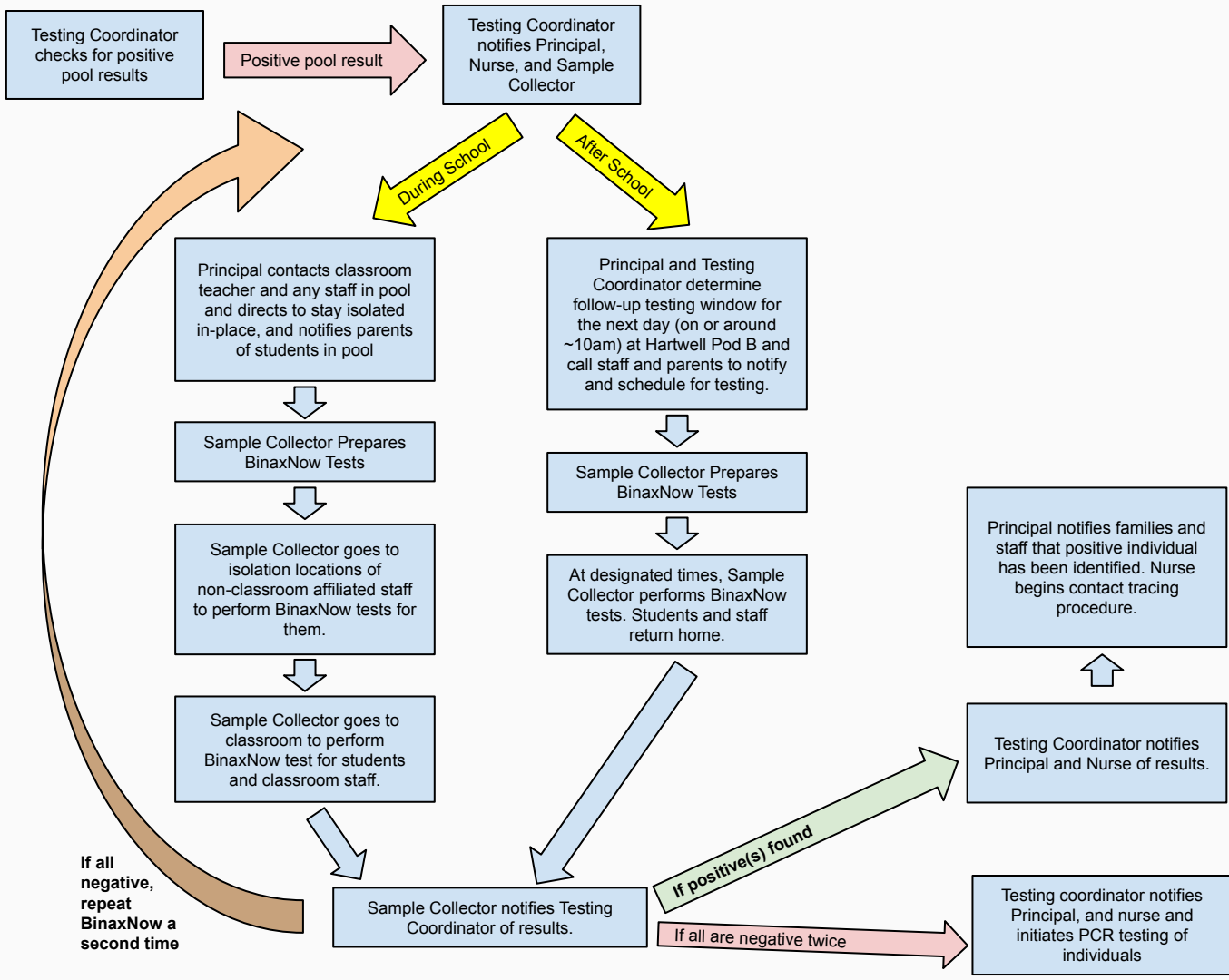
74 pools tested

1 pool returned a positive result

1 individual returned a positive result in follow-up antigen testing

Follow-up testing on positive pools

- If positive results for a pool:
 - Notification to families and staff in the pool
 - Follow up testing to identify the positive
 - Identify close contacts and begin the contacting tracing and quarantine process



Positive Pools

- Staff and families immediately notified

Weekly Report (by campus)

- Sent to staff and families on each campus when all results are received for the week

District Dashboard Update

- Updated with the week's results after all results district-wide are received for the week

Week 2 of Pooled Testing - Lincoln Campus Only

Participation rates:

78% of eligible students

80% of eligible staff

Count of individuals tested:

399 asymptomatic
individuals tested

295 students tested

104 staff tested

Test results:

44 pools tested

0 pools returned a positive
result

0 individuals returned a
positive result in follow-up
antigen testing