



Pooled Testing End of Year Report

Presented to School Committee June 3, 2021



Spring 2021 Testing Overview

14 weeks of testing (through 6/2)

Testing scheduled through 6/9 (Hanscom) and 6/15 (Lincoln)

Student participation: 63%

- *Lincoln: 86%*
- *Hanscom: 39%*

Staff participation: 85%



Testing Results

8,898 samples tested from asymptomatic individuals

5 positive cases identified through pooled tested

- 2 staff
- 3 students

Pooled testing positivity rate: 0.07%

Total known positive cases in the district during the testing period: 31

% of known positive cases identified through pooled testing: 16.13%



DESE Summer & FY'22 Programs

- Summer programming
 - Districts may offer to groups of students in school programs
 - District does not need to reapply to access summer pooled testing
- Pooled Testing Funding FY'22
 - DESE projected to fund FY' 22 testing program (FED grant)
 - Program will include pooled testing, and “diagnostic testing” (to include follow-up testing on positive pools, and optional symptomatic testing, and testing of close contacts)
 - Additional details expected in August



DESE Reasons for Supporting a 21-22 Testing Program

- Students in closer proximity to each other
- Not all students will be vaccinated (students younger than 12 are not yet offered vaccinations)
- On-going testing offers protection along with other mitigation measures
- Identifies asymptomatic cases
- Proactive to catch potential outbreaks and reduce spread
- Data suggests even with participation rates below 60% pooled testing is useful in making decisions and limiting exposure or understanding the usefulness of mitigation efforts (Safer Students, Safer Schools Collaborative, Broad Institute)
- Likelihood of an increased cold and flu season-districts may need to consider using BinaxNOW for symptomatic individuals



LPS Testing in 21-22

Considerations:

- Program largely funded by DESE
- LPS costs:
 - Sample collector staff
 - Management, logistics, and data processing time
 - ~10 min/week of instructional time
- Vaccination:
 - Student vaccination rates unknown
 - Impact on participation unknown
- DESE program specifics forthcoming
- Fall health and safety conditions unknown

Recommendation:

- Tentatively plan for 21-22 pooled testing
- Re-evaluate in August when specifics of DESE program are available and health and safety conditions are better known