



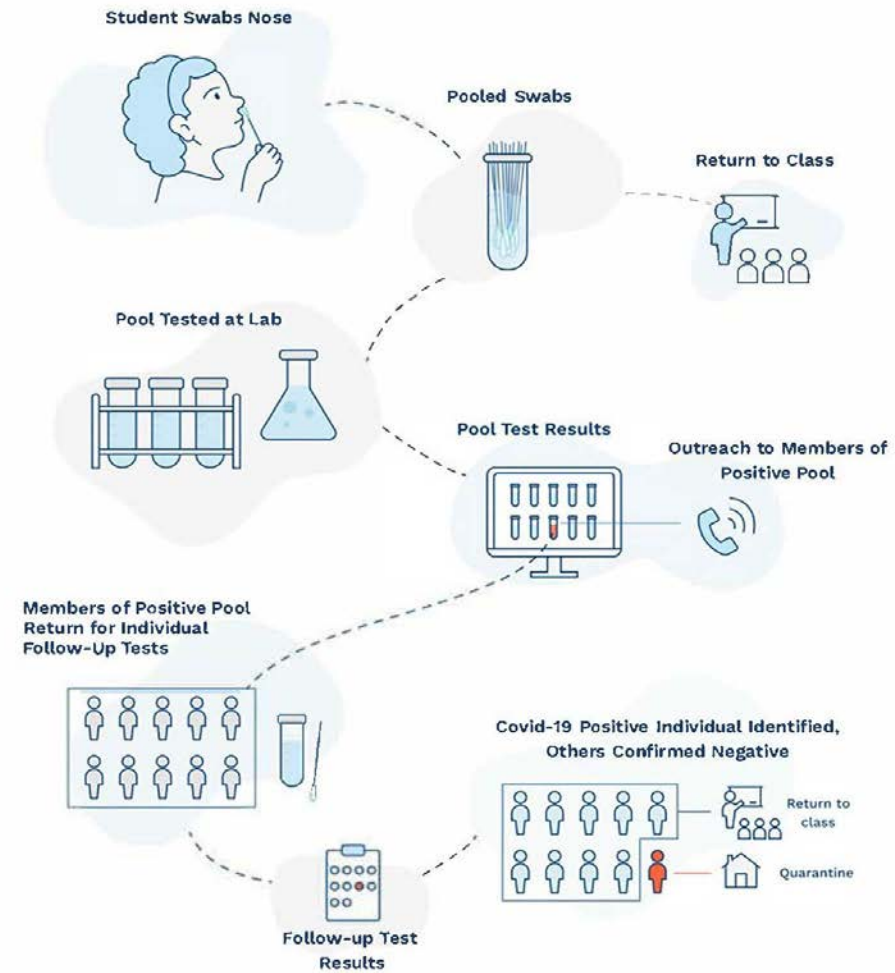
# DRACUT PUBLIC SCHOOLS COVID-19 POOL TESTING IN OUR SCHOOLS

February 26, 2021

# Why Pooled Testing?

- Pooled testing is an effective way to conduct regular surveillance testing to identify and mitigate the impact of COVID-19.
- This is a PCR test that efficiently tests large numbers of people quickly.

## How Pooled Testing Works in Schools



# It's Painless, & Most Students Can Self-Swab



[Click Here For Video](#)

# Testing

- Students in Preschool, Kindergarten and Grade 1 will have swabbing done by a trained medical professional provided through CIC Health (Cambridge MA), the lab assigned to Dracut.
- Students in grades 2-12 and staff will self-swab.
- At the elementary level, the testing team will operate by going class to class.
- At the secondary level, a central testing location will be established.
- Any student who cannot self administer the test will have an adult conduct the swabbing.
- A trained observer will oversee the self swabbing process in all cases.
- Follow up BinaxNOW antigen testing will be conducted by a Registered Nurse.
- **CIC reports that in districts that already have pool testing underway, the percentage of positive pools (which would trigger follow up testing) is approximately 1%.**

# Test Result Protocols

Tests Administered	Pool is Negative	Pool is Positive
<p><b>Pooled tests are administered and pool results are made available to administrators in 24 hours</b></p>	<p><b>All individuals in the pool are presumed negative</b></p>	<p><b>All individuals in the pool are notified, and re-tested individually using a rapid antigen test in school.</b></p> <p><b>If antigen test is negative, individual presumed negative</b></p> <p><b>If antigen test is positive, individual presumed positive and should isolate follow quarantine guidance and seek a PCR test through a primary care provider.</b></p>

# Follow-Up Testing

- If your student is in a positive pool, they will be asked to take a follow-up test in school administered by an Registered Nurse.
- The district has sought and received approval to utilize the BinaxNOW Antigen test as its follow-up test.
- Any individuals who are included in a positive pool will receive a BinaxNOW test. **Results are available in 15 minutes.**
- If an individual tests negative, they return to regular school activities.
- If the individual tests positive, they will be asked to follow up with a primary care professional and subject to standard quarantine procedures.

# Testing is Voluntary & Free to Families

- **Participation if completely voluntary.** Parents/Guardians will have to provide consent for students to participate in the program.
- **There is no cost to families or staff.** The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary education is paying for districts to launch testing through Mid-April
- After that, the district will assume the cost of the program.

# Additional Information on Who Can Participate

- Anyone who has previously tested positive for COVID-19 may participate **90 days after end of illness.**
- Anyone who has already been vaccinated may participate in the program.

# Weekly Schedule...

- Pool Testing will occur on **Tuesday** in each school.
- All samples will be sent to the lab in Cambridge Tuesday afternoon
- CIC Health will notify a school principal if any pool tests positive by **Wednesday night**.
- Parents and any staff who need follow up testing will be notified late Wednesday or Thursday morning.
- Any follow-up testing using the BinaxNOW antigen test will occur in school on **Thursdays**.

# Consent to Opt your Student in to Testing

- By signing the consent form, you:
  - Consent to your child receiving a pool test and, if needed, an individual follow-up test (BinaxNOW).
  - Acknowledge that if your child tests positive with the BinaxNOW follow-up test, that you will seek a PCR test from through your primary care professional and/or comply with quarantine rules
  - Your student's information being transmitted via provided technology. All technology is secure and compliant with data privacy laws.

# For More Information on the Pooled Testing Program...

<https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/pooled-testing/>