

FOR PARENTS

Hello and welcome to your pooled testing program!

Our mission at Concentric by Ginkgo is to make testing accessible for every school 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.” Tools like pooled testing empower us to make great decisions. Without knowing the prevalence of COVID-19 in your school, it’s tough for school leaders to make informed decisions about safeguarding your school community, returning to school, or continuing in-person learning.

What is classroom pooling? How does it work?

Classroom pooling tests up to 25 people using one test. All students in a class, pod, or cohort swab their own noses using short nasal swabs; think: cotton swabs. (We like to say, “if you can pick your nose, you can take this test!”) Then, everyone places their swabs in a single tube (that’s the pooling step). The samples in that tube are then run using one test. [See it in action here.](#)

How accurate is Concentric’s test?

Molecular tests like our pooled test are typically highly accurate at detecting the virus that causes COVID-19. We validated our pooled test by comparing its performance against an FDA-authorized “gold standard” PCR test. Our test correctly identified 96% of the positive tests detected by the PCR test and 100% of the negative tests (meaning that there were no false positives). The pooled results in our study matched the expected individual results 100% of the time.

Each of our lab partners has also validated their test by comparing performance to an FDA-authorized “gold standard” PCR test. [Click here](#) to read our validation reports for our lab at Ginkgo and all our partner labs across the country. Fair warning: it’s a bit dense!

What happens if my child's pool is positive?

While we understand a positive test result can cause concern, a positive result means the routine testing program is doing exactly what it was designed to do: monitoring pockets of infections. This can help your school stop or mitigate potential outbreaks. A positive pooled test result enables your school to take further steps to safeguard your student, you, and your community.

Your school has designed a policy to respond to a positive pool. Please reach out to your school directly about its specific guidelines and available resources.

Is my child's privacy protected?

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

We provide pooled test results directly to schools and minimize access to results to only people authorized by each school. Since our test is a public health tool designed for communities, we're only interested in collecting or analyzing data that will enable schools to formulate the best public health response to COVID-19.

We safeguard student's privacy through several layers of protection. [Please read our full blog post on this](#); we think it's important and want you to understand how we take this responsibility seriously and with care.

What if I have other questions?

For more information on Concentric by Ginkgo visit our website www.concentricbyginkgo.com where we have answers to many FAQs. Or, check out our blog www.concentricbyginkgo.com/blog which we regularly update to answer questions in longer form.