

The communication below provides important information from the Public Schools of Brookline. Translated versions are available at the following links:

- [Arabic: الرجاء الضغط هنا للترجمة العربية.](#)
 - [Chinese: 点击这里查看中文翻译.](#)
 - [Haitian Creole: Klike la a pou tradiksyon kreyòl ayisyen an.](#)
 - [Hebrew: אנא לחץ כאן לצפייה במסמך בעברית.](#)
 - [Japanese: ここをクリックして日本語の翻訳にアクセスしてください.](#)
 - [Korean: 한국어 번역을 보시려면 여기를 클릭하십시오.](#)
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 - [Russian: Нажмите здесь, чтобы получить доступ к русскому переводу.](#)
 - [Spanish: Haga clic aquí para acceder a la traducción al español.](#)
 - [Vietnamese: Nhấn vào đây để truy cập bản dịch tiếng Việt.](#)
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The Public Schools of Brookline

FAQ for Pooled Testing

What is pooled COVID-19 testing?

COVID-19 pooled testing is a screening tool using a pooled strategy in K-12 public schools as an additional mitigation strategy. Pooled testing involves mixing several individuals' test samples together into one "pool" and then testing the pooled sample for COVID-19. This approach increases the number of individuals that can be tested at one time and allows us to regularly test our school community for COVID-19.

Who may participate in pooled testing?

Any PSB student facing staff or student who is physically in school (hybrid or full time) is invited to participate. It is a voluntary program with the expectation that staff and students will commit to testing weekly.

The testing will be phased in as stated below:

- March 2nd all interested student facing staff
- March 9th and 11th all interested students in grade 9-12 and all student facing staff
- March 16th and 18th all interested students grades 6-12 and all student facing staff
- March 23rd and 25th all interested students PK-12 and all interested student facing staff

How often will testing be offered?

The pooled tests will be performed weekly at each individual school with a shallow nasal swab for all participating students and staff members through March 25th. Pooled results will be received within 24-48 hours. If the result of the pool is negative, then all individuals are presumed to not have COVID-19.

What if there is a positive COVID 19 pool?

If the result of the pool is positive, then all individuals in the pool must be retested individually, because pooled testing does not give individual results. You will only be notified when follow-up testing will be required due to being in a positive pool. You will not be notified if you are in a negative pool.

How will the follow-up testing be offered?

PSB will be providing the Abbott BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen Diagnostic Tests for follow-up testing, so that students or staff in a positive pool can be tested as soon as possible and receive individual results in 15 minutes. Those who volunteer for testing must commit to returning for follow-up testing when their pool is positive.

What if the Binax test is not able to identify the staff member or student who tests positive for Covid 19 ?

If the viral load is low, it is possible that the positive individual in the pooled test may not be identified by the Binax test. A PCR test would then be indicated. No new sample would be required and the pooled students/staff would be able to attend school, if asymptomatic, until the results of the PCR test are known.

Who will be administering the pooled and Binax testing?

PSB nursing staff has been thoroughly trained on how to administer pooled testing, as well as the Abbott BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen Diagnostic Tests, if they are needed for follow-up testing. We may also utilize service providers offered through the DESE program to assist.

How will I be notified of my pooled testing result?

If staff or students are part of a negative pool they will not be notified. PBS nurses will call staff or parents if they are part of a positive pool that requires follow-up testing and nurses will also notify the individuals of the follow-up test's positive or negative results.

How is the test sample collected?

It is an observed, self administered anterior (shallow) nasal swab. Cotton swab, 3x around the inside wall of each nostril. Young students in Pre-K, Kindergarten and Grade One, and those who need additional help will be swabbed by a school nurse. This is NOT an invasive swab.

Should individuals who have previously tested positive for COVID-19 be included in pools?

Individuals who have previously tested positive in the past 90 days should **not** test. After 90 days, you should be included again in the pools. (Please note that guidance on this point will soon be revised from 90 to 180 days after a positive individual test result).

As individuals are vaccinated, should they be included in pools?

Yes. Vaccinated individuals should still be included in pooled testing.

Will pooled testing continue at the completion of the program offered through DESE?

We anticipate that we will continue to offer pooled testing in some capacity. We will evaluate our results, participation rates and operational considerations, and feedback in making a decision about future testing.