



Midwest
Coordination
Center

U.S. Health and Human Services COVID-19 Testing Program

Information Packet

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Program Purpose and Overview

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is funding four regional coordination centers providing expanded COVID-19 testing access to help schools and congregate settings safely reopen, remain open, and reach underserved populations
- All supplies, shipping, and testing are **free of cost**
- Midwest Coordination Center (MCC) provides COVID-19 testing in 16 Midwestern states
- Sites are registered and paired with certified partner laboratories that provide FDA authorized standard RT-PCR testing authorized under FDA Emergency Use Authorization
- Serial screening tests of individuals who have no symptoms help quickly identify potentially contagious cases and prevent further transmission or future outbreaks



Eligible Sites

Schools

- Public Schools K - 12
- Private Schools K – 12
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities

Shelters

- Homeless
- Domestic violence
- Faith-based
- Youth
- Family

Youth-serving organizations

- YMCA (some will also have shelters)
- Boys and Girls Clubs
- Boy and Girl Scouts
- 4-H
- FFA

Correctional facilities

- Jails – usually locally operated in counties and/or cities
- Federally operated prisons
- Privately operated prisons
- State operated prisons

Childcare centers

- Private/independent
- Home-based – licensed through states
- Federally funded (Head Start)
- Pre-K programs

Other types

- Nursing homes

How it Works

COORDINATION CENTER



- Registers facilities
- Pairs facilities with partner testing labs
- Provides training and customer support on program participation
- Coordinates distribution of sample collection and shipping supplies
- Coordinates reporting of results to individuals, schools, and facilities

SCHOOLS AND CONGREGATE SETTINGS



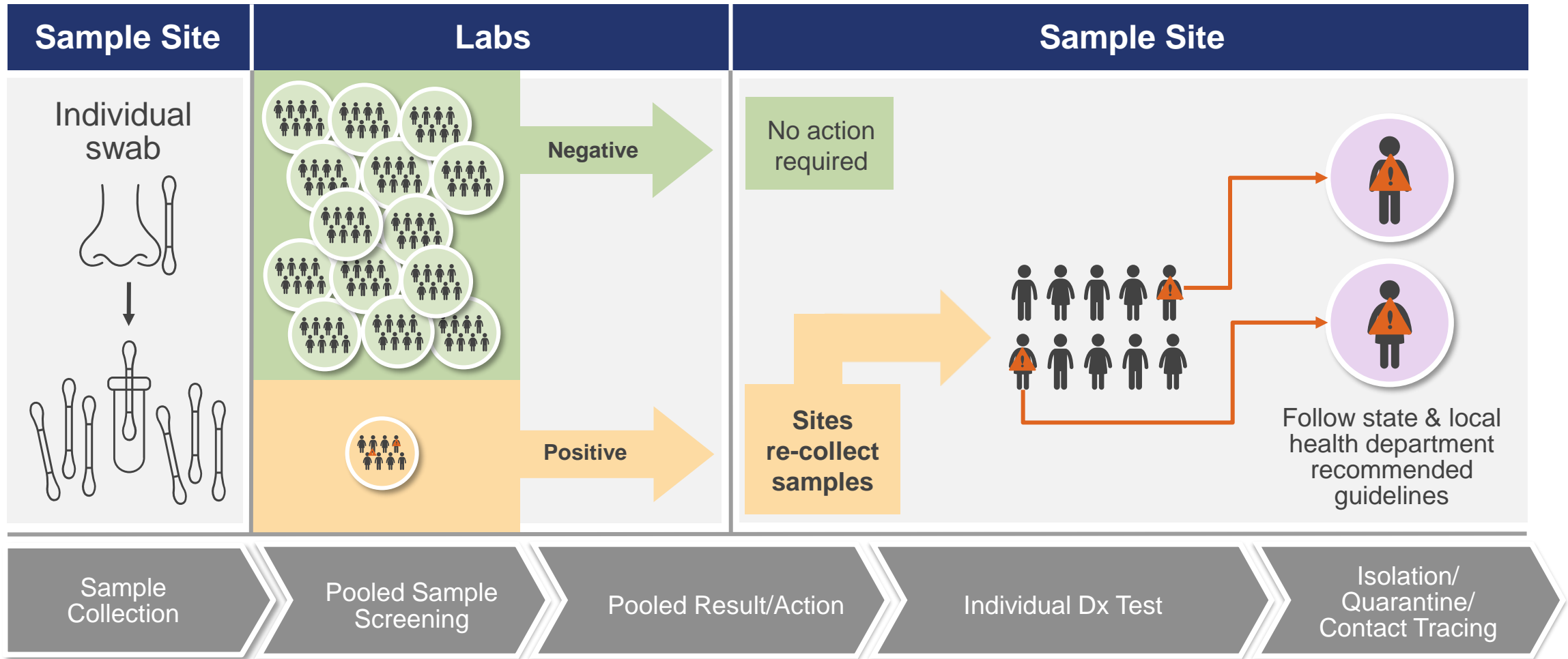
- Develops local testing plan
- Obtains testing consent documents and authorizations to release test results (with help of Coordination Center Guardian/Participant portal, if desired)
- Coordinates sample collection and sends samples for testing
- Acts based on screening and individual results

PARTNER TESTING LABS



- Provides sample collection supplies
- Receives and tests samples
- Reports results to Midwest Coordination Center and public health authorities

Testing Overview





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Setting Up

Testing Plan

- Schools or congregate facilities will develop a Testing Plan
- A Testing Plan includes:
 - Testing Schedule
 - Targeted Testing Population
 - Testing Frequency
 - Process for Collecting and Pooling Samples
 - Follow-up Actions based on Results

School Testing Plan Schedule Example:

Task	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Authorized
Pooled Sample Collection	8–10 am	8–10 am	8–10 am			Trained Site Administrators and Users
Sample Pick-up	By 2 pm	By 2 pm	By 2 pm			Courier service established by Lab; School Administrator
View Pooled Results		12 pm	12 pm	12 pm		School Administrator; Parents
Individual Collection (If necessary)		1–2:30 pm	1–2:30 pm	1–2:30 pm		Trained Site Administrators and Users
Sample Pick-up (if individual collection)		4pm	4pm	4pm		Courier service established by Lab; School Administrator
View Follow-up Results			8 am	8 am	8 am	School Administrator; Parents

* Colors follow the life cycle of a given day's sample

Administrative Set-up in Preparation for Testing

1

Communicate testing plan clearly to parents, guardians, or residents

- The Midwest Coordination Center (MCC) has example text to assist with communications

2

Obtain individual consent documents for testing and authorization to release results

- Electronic signature – on the MCC website
- Physical signature – on paper form provided and then uploaded to the MCC website

3

Upload student/resident names, dates of birth, and other information into the secure Midwest Coordination Center website

- Individual upload
- Mass upload using provided template on the MCC website

Administrative Set-up in Preparation for Testing

4 Order Specimen Collection Tests and Shipping Supplies

- Use the MCC to place orders for both pooled and individual specimen collection and shipping materials at least 5 business days before they are needed
- MCC will provide barcode scanners to track collected samples
- Supplies and shipping are free of charge

5 Establish Shipping Method and Courier Pick-up Arrangements

- Diagnostic lab will provide instructions on shipping/courier arrangements
- MCC will assist with coordinating pick-up arrangements



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Testing

Pooled Sample Collection

- The MCC uses certified partner labs to test samples collected
- Testing method is RT-PCR, collection is with short nasal swabs
 - This type of sample is more comfortable, and easily self-collected by the individual under the supervision of a school nurse or trained staff member.
- Pooled samples include swabs of 5-10 participants in a single tube

Individual Sample Collection – If positive result:



- Individual Sample Collection will only occur if a pooled sample yields a positive or inconclusive result.
- These tests are collected just like routine tests – the only difference is that each swab is placed into an individual tube.



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Results

Getting Results



Test results will be available on the MCC website testedandprotected.org

Who can Access the Site?

- Sample site designees can view health results for their site.
- Participants or registered parents/guardians can view their individual test results.

The MCC and partner labs will follow state and federal public health law in reporting results.

- The school/congregate facility will not need to report results from testing. Results will be automatically reported by the MCC program.

Protecting Personal Health Information

It is essential to protect Personal Health Information by:

- A** Limiting access to only those persons who absolutely need to know it. The MCC will obtain a person's (or parent's/guardian's) consent to share test results with physicians, school nurses, or others who "NEED TO KNOW."
- B** Limiting the amount of information to the "Minimum Necessary Standard" – only using or sharing the minimal amount of information needed.

This is important for two primary reasons:

- It's the right thing to do. It is important to protect everyone's right to privacy.
- There are federal, state and tribal laws to protect personal health information; misuse of such information can lead to criminal and civil penalties for organizations and individuals.

For questions about privacy protections, contact the MCC for assistance.



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Customer Support for Facilities

Resources

COMMUNICATION TOOLKIT



- Email templates to assist with communications
- Informative flyers to share general information with other organizations and parents/guardians

TRAINING



- Webinars
- Demonstration video for how to use the MCC portal
- Sample collection guidance from partner lab

TEST RESOURCES



- Testing plan considerations (informative flyer)
- Lab collection instructions
- Lab shipping instructions
- Consent and authorization forms

Ways to Find Support



info@
testedandprotected.org



Call us at
833.754.2176



Visit the MCC Website at:
<https://testedandprotected.org/>



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FAQ's

FAQs – General Testing

What types of tests will be performed?

- We provide pooled sample, single diagnostic polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing to participating sites. These tests will be either nasal swabs or saliva sampling, depending on which lab a site is paired with.

How much does it cost to test?

- Testing under this program is free – the kits, shipping and lab testing are paid for by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

How quickly will we get the results?

- Test results will be available within 24 - 48 hours from the time the samples are shipped to the lab.

Who can collect specimens?

- Requirements vary by state. For example, some states require a medical professional to administer testing, while others do not. Sites will be responsible for ensuring the individuals who collect specimens are appropriately trained and meet state requirements.

FAQs – Pooling

How does pooling work?

- Pooling is a testing technique that allows mixing of a portion of several individual samples together to create one “pooled” sample for testing. Pooling helps labs meet the demand for efficient COVID-19 testing.

What does a negative pool mean?

- If the pooled sample is negative, this indicates all participant samples are presumed negative.

What does a positive pool mean?

- If the pooled sample is positive (or invalid/inconclusive), then at least one participant in the pool may be positive. Depending on your organization’s follow-up plan, the individuals in that pool may be directed not to return for a period of time (as able), or each individual may be tested again.