

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!

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## *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.

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## *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.

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## *What if I have other questions?*

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