



# Simple, pooled COVID-19 testing designed for K-12 schools

CDPH is partnering with Concentric to provide pooled testing at no cost to California schools. Concentric currently offers pooled testing to over 1,000 schools across the country.

Visit [concentricbyginkgo.com](https://concentricbyginkgo.com) to learn more and view a [video overview](#) of how test day runs.

Email [lbronner@ginkgobioworks](mailto:lbronner@ginkgobioworks) for links to our weekly webinars or to set up a 1:1 meeting.



Our end-to-end program simplifies logistics and gives schools the data to make more informed decisions. The program includes:

- **Pooled testing:** Pooling minimizes the burden on staff and the disruption to in-person learning, allowing for an entire classroom (up to 25 individuals) to be tested in less than 15 minutes. For example, every first period class can be a pool.
- **Individual follow up testing:** Rapid antigen testing is provided to conduct follow up testing on any positive pools
- **On-site support:** The program can be run using existing school resources, or Concentric can provide on-site support at no additional cost to schools
- **Results portal:** Online portal serves as testing and results hub for administrators

## How Classroom Pooling Works



1 Classroom  
(up to 25 students)



1 Tube

All students in a class (and the teacher!) self-swab and place their samples in a single tube.

POOL #0001

**Test Result:**

**Negative**

1 Result

That tube is then run using one test, and the classroom is provided with one result.

Only positive pools result in further action. For a positive classroom result, Concentric provides individual diagnostic tests as a follow up.



## What happens with positive pools?

**Follow-up testing:** We will administer **rapid antigen tests\*** during or after school to all students and staff in a positive pool. The results will inform the correct approach:

- **Positive Result:** Individual follows protocols for isolation and quarantine following public health department guidance
- **Negative Result and Close Contact:** Individuals follow Modified Quarantine protocols, remaining in class, refraining from extracurricular activities and testing twice the following week
- **Negative Result and No Close Contact:** Individuals with a negative result who are not identified as close contacts do not need to quarantine if they are participating in the testing program

**Individuals who are not testing** but are **close contacts** follow **Modified Quarantine** protocols, remaining in class, refraining from extracurricular activities and testing every 3 days. They will need to join the program in order to be tested at school.

## See a pooling program in action in Baltimore City Public Schools!



[concentricbyginkgo.com/baltimore](https://concentricbyginkgo.com/baltimore)

Our teachers participate and it very much feels like a community effort.”

— Staff Specialist

\*Negative results should be considered in the context of a patient’s recent exposures, history and the presence of clinical signs and symptoms consistent with COVID-19

## Hear more from our community:

Having a negative test is a morale booster. People walk taller and feel more secure.”

— Superintendent\*

The test was not bad at all. It just tickles.”

— Sixth Grader\*

It lifted the fear.. it felt the most normal it has felt in a long time on that day.”

— SuperIntendent

The scholars have been great about doing the testing. Most of them are excited to do it. They want to be a part of it.”

— Principal

Most of our families were really excited about the opportunity. They welcomed it. It made them feel safer which is the ultimate goal.”

— Principal

Just to stay on top of the cases, know what's going on, and then have a plan when things do go wrong is the only way to keep going”

— Parent

## Don't believe our test is super easy? Take it from a student!

Check out this adorable “How to Swab” video made by a school that participated in our pilot program, starring one of their second graders.