



Pooled Testing Program: Participation Agreement

The foundational principle of the CDPH COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year is that all students must have access to safe and full in-person instruction and to as much instructional time as possible. In California, the surest path to safe and full in-person instruction at the outset of the school year, as well as minimizing missed school days in an ongoing basis, is a strong emphasis on the following: vaccination for all eligible individuals to get COVID-19 rates down throughout the community; universal masking in schools, which enables no minimum physical distancing, allowing all students access to full in-person learning, and more targeted quarantine practices, keeping students in school; and access to a robust COVID-19 testing program as an available additional safety layer.

In order to reduce transmission of COVID-19 and to support in-person classroom instruction, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Testing Task Force are making pooled testing services available to districts and schools¹ that apply at no cost through the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

Pooled testing services for COVID-19 combine, i.e., “pool”, a set of individual test specimens and yield a single test result for the overall pool. The pooled test results are not intended for diagnostic or treatment purposes but are instead offered as a screening tool to increase the likelihood of identifying possible positive cases in the school population.

No COVID-19 test is perfect, and the pooled test may produce false positives (i.e., indicate that at least one individual has COVID-19 when no one in the pooled population actually does) or false negatives (i.e., indicate that no individual in the pooled population has COVID-19 when one or more individuals actually do). Notwithstanding the results of any pooled test, San Mateo Foster City School District should encourage members of the school population to consult their individual health care providers if they have signs or symptoms of COVID-19, or otherwise believe they have been exposed to COVID-19.

In the event of a positive test result from the pool, individual-level follow-up testing will be conducted.

Upon approval as an authorized school, San Mateo Foster City School District will be assigned to a CDPH-approved pooled testing provider (the “Pooled Testing Provider”) that will provide end-to-end operational support for pooled testing. This includes the provision of pooled test kits, pooled testing services, diagnostic testing services, courier logistics, staffing, whole genomic sequencing, and support services.

¹ The term “districts and schools” in this document refers to a public school district or charter school offering K-12 educational programming that seeks to be authorized to receive Pooled Testing Services from a contractor approved CDPH.



To support the effective administration of this program as well as the safe and effective administration of pooled testing, CDPH seeks assurances from San Mateo Foster City School District before authorizing access to the pooled testing services. Specifically, for access to pooled testing program services made available by CDPH, San Mateo Foster City School District must agree to:

Testing Protocols

- Allow for the Pooled Testing Provider to test all consenting staff and students in a pooled test, on a schedule set by the authorized school and the testing provider;
- Allow for the Pooled Testing Provider to follow-up on a positive test result from a pool with individualized diagnostic testing of all members in the pool.

Isolation, Quarantine, & Contact Tracing

- Authorized schools must also have in place appropriate protocols to ensure individuals stay home from school until it is safe to return, follow other ordinary isolation and quarantine protocols, and to conduct additional contact tracing if necessary.

Communication & Support

- Communicate with teachers, staff, students, and families about this program on an ongoing basis;
- Work with the Pooled Testing Provider, depending on the support level needed by the authorized school, to promote an effective delivery of this program including following instructions from the Pooled Testing Provider.

Superintendents, charter school leaders, and executive directors: please complete the information and sign below to affirm that you agree to the above-listed conditions of participation in CDPH's Pooled Testing Program. CDPH, in its discretion, reserves the right to cancel your participation in this program upon a violation of any of the above conditions.

____ San Mateo Foster City School District _____
Name of District or School

____ Diego R. Ochoa, Superintendent _____
Superintendent/Executive Director Name

____ 650-312-7700 _____
Phone Number

____ August 18, 2021 _____
Date

____  _____
Signature