



MILWAUKEE  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Ready - Set - Return to the Classroom

## COVID-19 TESTING PROGRAM



MPS is partnering with Ginkgo Bioworks, Inc., to facilitate COVID-19 testing for students and staff returning to our buildings for in-person learning and work.



**GINKGO BIOWORKS**  
THE ORGANISM COMPANY

The program will consist of periodic pooled testing, which is a significant component of the district's health and safety strategy. The testing program will enhance the district's ability to provide a safe environment for in-person learning/work for students and staff.

QUESTION	ANSWER
<i>What is pooled testing?</i>	Pooled testing is a process in which samples from multiple individuals are collected and tested together as one pool. This is an efficient way to test large volumes of individuals as samples can be taken from as many as 25 individuals to run one test. A pooled test does not provide a test result for each individual in the pool; however, the pool can reveal the presence of COVID-19 in the sampled group.
<i>What is the purpose of pooled testing?</i>	Pooled testing provides an efficient way to identify COVID-19 in individuals who do not show any signs or symptoms of infection. This effort to identify asymptomatic individuals is part of the district's proactive approach to mitigating the spread of COVID-19 and ensuring a safe environment.
<i>Who will participate in the testing?</i>	Students and staff returning to in-person learning/work will be tested.
<i>Is participation in the testing mandatory?</i>	<b>Yes</b> , participation in the pooled testing is required for all staff and students engaged in in-person learning/work.
<i>Is consent required?</i>	<b>Yes</b> . Written consent will be obtained before an individual is tested. Consent forms will be provided to families upon the start of in-person learning. Forms will be provided to staff when they return to buildings. The form is also available on the district website.
<i>What happens if a parent or staff member refuses to consent to testing?</i>	If a parent does not consent to their child participating in the testing, the child will be transitioned to virtual learning. A staff member's refusal to participate in the testing will be considered insubordination.
<i>How often will testing take place?</i>	Ten percent of students and staff at each school site will be tested every other week.
<i>When will testing start?</i>	The first group of schools will start testing the week of April 19, 2021, with remaining schools starting the week of April 26.
<i>How are samples taken?</i>	Samples are taken via a nasal swab. Individuals participating in the testing will self-administer the test by rotating a swab around the inside of each nostril four times. Once complete, the individual will place their swab in a designated container for the pool/classroom.
<i>What happens with the samples?</i>	After all swabs from the pool are put in the collection container, a nurse or designated staff person will close the container and prepare it for shipment to the lab for testing.
<i>Will the lab have a participant's identifiable personal information?</i>	<b>No</b> . The lab will not have any participant's personal information. Every container sent to the lab will be barcoded and linked only to a pool/classroom. Only the school will know which individuals' samples were included in a pool's container.

<b>QUESTION</b>	<b>ANSWER</b>
<i>How will testing materials be stored at the school site?</i>	All testing materials, information, kits, and consent forms will be housed in a safe and secure location in the building by the nurse or designated staff person.
<i>How long will it take to receive results?</i>	Results will be received within 24 to 48 hours.
<i>Will individuals in a testing pool be informed of test results?</i>	If test results from the pool come back <b>negative, no notification will be provided</b> to the individuals in the pool. If test results from a pool come back <b>positive, all individuals in the pool will be informed</b> of the positive result.
<i>What happens if a pooled test comes back positive?</i>	Individuals in the pool will be immediately notified of the positive test result and directed to obtain an individual diagnostic COVID-19 test to determine if they are positive for COVID-19. Everyone in the pool will be directed not to return to the site for 14 days. Instruction for a classroom pool will be transitioned to virtual learning for 14 days.
<i>If a participant in the positive pool obtains an individual negative COVID-19 test, can they return to the site before the 14 days have concluded?</i>	<b>No.</b> All participants in a positive pool will be required to remain away from the site for the full 14 days.

We are **MPS Ready!**

School Reopening Website: [mymps.org/](https://mymps.org/)