Classroom Pooling
COVID-19 Screening Pilot

Overview for Families
Why we are screening at schools?

1. To protect the health and safety of students and staff.
2. To help City Schools make informed decisions about operating schools and classrooms.
3. To help detect COVID-19 cases even when students and staff do not exhibit symptoms.
What is "classroom polling"?

With classroom pooling, an entire classroom can be tested using a single molecular test for SARS-CoV-2.

This dramatically reduces the cost and operational logistics of surveillance testing in K-12 schools.

Schools and the district will have the data needed to decide whether to keep schools or buildings opening.
1. The tube is placed open on a desk or table, in a coffee cup or other stand that keeps it upright.

2. Everyone in a classroom receives a sealed nasal swab. A small group (about 3-5) is asked to swab themselves while a teacher observes. After they place their swabs in the open tube, the next group is called. The whole process takes 10-15 minutes for a classroom.

3. The tube is capped, sterilized with an alcohol wipe, and returned to the Test Supervisor for registration and shipment.
How does it work?

Lower nasal (anterior nares/AN) swabs are painless and easy to self-administer. In our early pilots, kids as young as first grade were able to successfully self-collect swabs.
Learn more about this program

Contact: Principal XXXX at xxxx@bcps.k12.md.us

Download the message at LINK