

Participant Summary

School Personnel Perspectives on COVID-19 Testing in Schools

We appreciate you sharing your perspectives about COVID-19 testing in schools with us. This document shares the main findings from the focus groups with school personnel.

BACKGROUND

We conducted rapid formative research with a small group of stakeholders—*parents/caregivers of Black and Latino/a/x students and school personnel*—to inform COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) testing in schools for the Fall 2021 school year.

The formative research was conducted as part of a larger NIH-funded study called, “SARS-CoV-2 Screening and Diagnostic Testing for Return to K-12 Schools,”

<https://abcsciencecollaborative.org/covid-19-testing-in-schools>

led by The ABC Science Collaborative (<https://abcsciencecollaborative.org/about/>)

in partnership with QualCore (<https://populationhealth.duke.edu/research/qualcore>) at Duke University.

PURPOSE

To foster positive aspects and mitigate negative impacts from COVID-19 testing in schools—including any stigma associated with race and ethnicity—by gathering the perspectives of parents and caregivers of Black and Latino/a/x students and school personnel on the social, ethical, and behavioral considerations of COVID-19 testing in schools and sharing this information with key health and education stakeholders.

MAIN FINDINGS

- Schools should establish clear COVID-19 protocols (e.g., masking, distancing, communication of test results, quarantine policies) and follow them consistently.
- Framing and presentation of the COVID-19 testing program to the school community is critically important for acceptance among parents and the wider community, as is communication of clear expectations.
- Parental involvement and consent is needed for the COVID-19 testing program.
- Communications with parents about COVID-19 testing in schools should be science- and data-based.
- Teachers should be involved in designing the COVID-19 testing program, to provide input on how best to minimize teacher burden and classroom disruptions and to be able to express any concerns they may have.
- Healthcare professionals should make contact with affected families.
- Schools should develop plans for keeping students who are diagnosed with COVID-19 engaged with the school community during the quarantine period.

Want the detailed findings? Visit The ABC Science Collaborative website to download the full report: <https://abcsciencecollaborative.org/reportsummaries/>



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