

Participant Summary

Thoughts of Parents & Caregivers of Latino Students on COVID-19 Testing in Schools

Thank you for telling us your thoughts on COVID-19 testing in schools.
Here we share what we learned from talking with parents & caregivers.

BACKGROUND

We did telephone interviews with parents and caregivers of Latino students.
We also spoke with parents of Black students and with school personnel.
This is part of a larger study paid for by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) called, "SARS-CoV-2 Screening and Diagnostic Testing for Return to K-12 Schools," <https://abcsciencecollaborative.org/covid-19-testing-in-schools>.
The study is led by The ABC Science Collaborative (<https://abcsciencecollaborative.org/about/>) and QualCore (<https://populationhealth.duke.edu/research/qualcore>) at Duke University.

PURPOSE

We want to learn the thoughts of parents and caregivers of Latino students on COVID-19 testing in schools. We will share this information with people who are involved in COVID-19 testing in schools (we will not share the names of the participants).
We hope the information we learn from parents and caregivers can improve COVID-19 testing in schools and reduce concerns about any potential negative effects.

MAIN FINDINGS

- Possible benefits of testing students in schools were:
 - A safer school
 - Reduced community spread
 - Trained staff doing the testing
 - Not having to go somewhere else to be tested
- Concerns about testing students in schools were:
 - Uncomfortable tests
 - What to do when students do not want to be tested
 - A lack of information on next steps after a student tests positive
- School staff should learn students' test results to reduce spread.
- Schools should help students who test positive to learn at home.
- Most parents/caregivers felt like they did not have the skills to test their children at home.
- Some parents/caregivers said their child has been treated unfairly at school due to ethnicity and/or race.
- Some said going to a school with more Latino and Black students reduces unfair treatment.
- Some parents/caregivers thought students who test positive could be treated unfairly.

- Parents/caregivers of children who had been treated unfairly before the pandemic said this did not affect their decision for their children to return to in-person school in Fall 2021.
- Reasons parents/caregivers wanted children to go to in-person school were:
 - Higher quality of instruction
 - Better academic performance
 - Good for the children's mental health
 - Children could interact and socialize with other students
- All parents/caregivers were willing for their children to be tested for COVID-19 at school.



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