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](https://abcsciencecollaborative.org/covid-19-testing-in-schools). The study is led by The ABC Science Collaborative ([https://abcsciencecollaborative.org/about/](https://abcsciencecollaborative.org/about/)) and QualCore ([https://populationhealth.duke.edu/research/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.