

nrhi

**Network for
Regional Healthcare
Improvement**



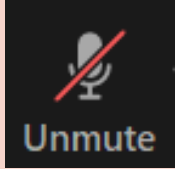
The
**ROCKEFELLER
FOUNDATION**

COVID-19 Testing to Support Reopening of Schools: A National Forum for Regional Leaders

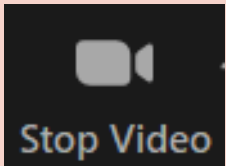
Maine DHHS: Lessons from Early COVID- 19 Testing Implementation

June 8, 2021

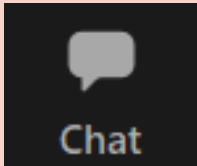
A Few Reminders



Please mute/unmute when not speaking



Please share your video if you are able



Please use the chat for questions



We are live tweeting today-join us!

@RegHealthImp, #StrongerTogether

Today's agenda

- Welcome & Introduction
- Spotlight: *Maine DHHS—Lessons from Early COVID-19 Testing Implementation*
- Question & Answer
- Closing Announcements

Welcome & Introduction



To support reopening of schools, NRHI, with support from The Rockefeller Foundation, will bring together leaders from schools, universities, health systems, public health, community-based organizations, health improvement organizations, and government to share successes and discuss overcoming barriers to school-based testing.

Join us every other Tuesday from 2:00 - 3:00 pm ET

Next Session

Tuesday, June 22th | 2-3 pm ET

Key Takeaways and Recordings



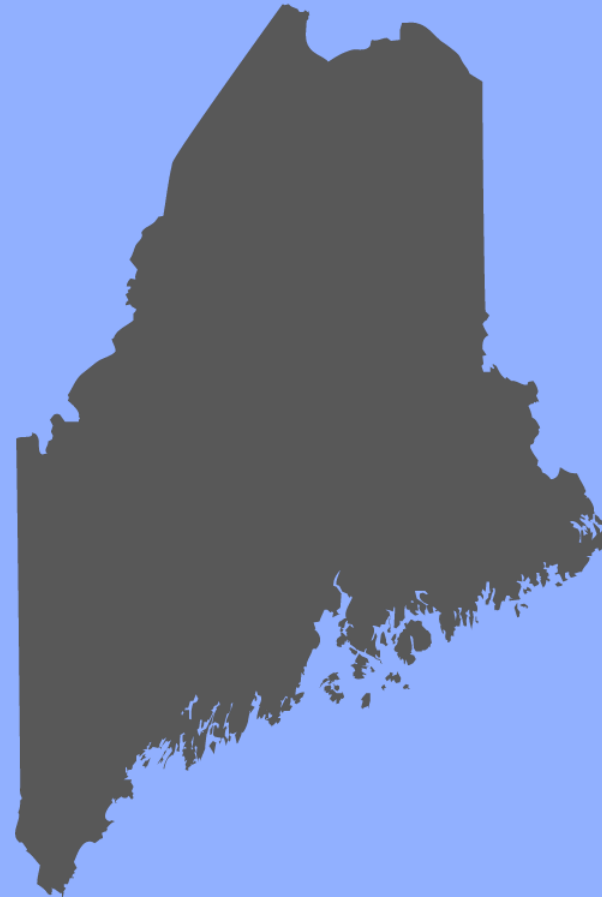
COVID-19 Testing Innovation Series

Key takeaways and recordings from each event are disseminated following each event and can be found [here](#)



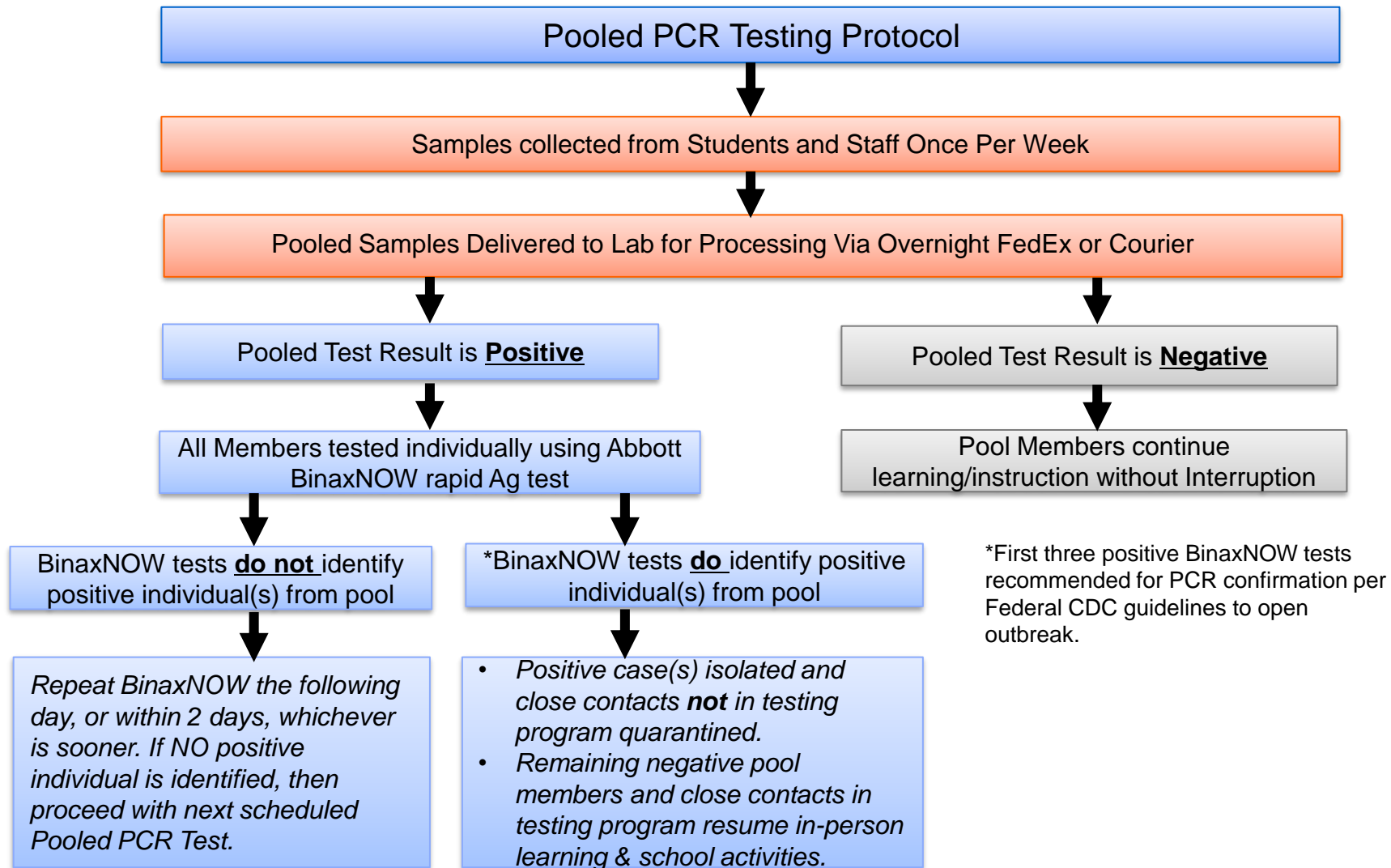
Maine K-12 Schools Testing Strategy

June 8, 2021



K-12 Testing

- Maine launched BinaxNOW for schools in November of 2020. Since launch, over 85 districts/private schools (33%) have applied for and received BinaxNOW.
- In late April, Maine announced a pooled PCR testing program available to schools. Maine has partnered with Concentric by Gingko Bioworks.
 - Maine received \$40 million through ELC grant funding.
 - Funding provides additional staffing support needed for schools.
 - Maine program largely mirrors Massachusetts' program.



Additional Benefits of Pooled PCR Testing

- Unvaccinated students participating in the weekly pooled PCR testing program who are identified as a close contact of a positive case do not need to quarantine.
- Schools that have 30% or more participation in program can remove the 3ft spacing requirement in the classroom/learning environment.

Pooled PCR Testing

- Maine published guidance, FAQs and an online enrollment form for schools. <https://www.maine.gov/doe/covid-19/toolkit>
- As of June 7, 2021:
 - 31 Districts/Private Schools have enrolled
 - Consisting of 82 schools
 - Estimated number of students targeted: 26,479 (~10%)
 - Estimated number of teachers: 2,671
 - Estimated number of staff: 1,879
 - TOTAL: 31,029

Expected Rollout: 22 Spring, 16 Summer, 44 Fall
Number of Schools requesting Support: 50

Challenges and Future Considerations

- Timing of rollout
- Answering many questions related to “how is this useful?” and “why now?”
- Currently encourage all to enroll, including those who are vaccinated; however, as vaccination rates increase participation will decrease.
- Unclear how increased vaccination among children will impact CDC guidelines for schools.

Question and Answer



Resources

[Covid-19 Testing in K-12 Settings: A Playbook for Educators and Leaders](#)

[K-12 National Testing Action Program \(NTAP\)](#)

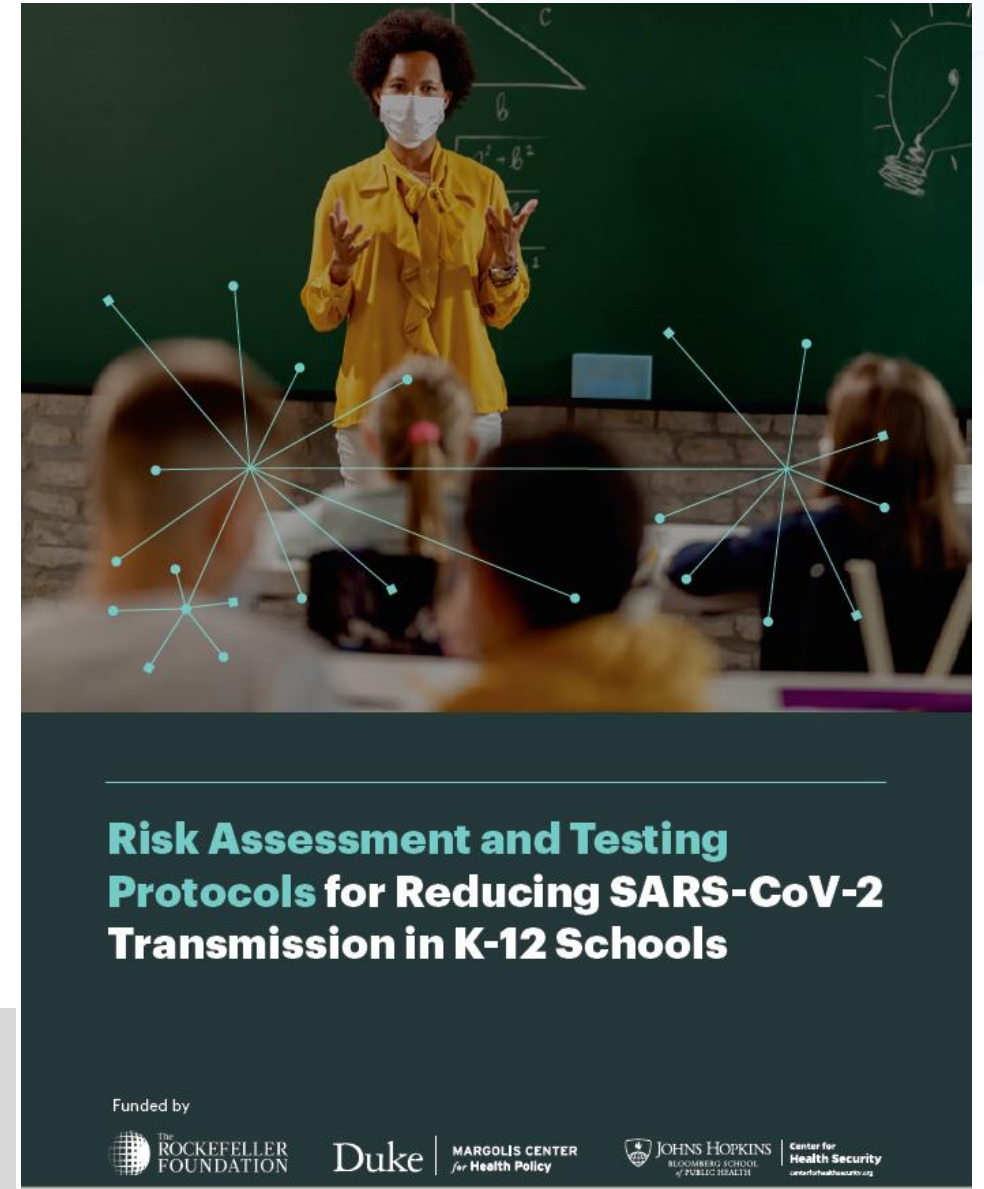
[Chiefs for Change Reopening Resources](#)

[Risk Assessment and Testing Protocols for Reducing SARS-CoV-2 Transmission in K-12 Schools](#)

[COVID-19 Testing Commons](#)

Key takeaways from the full Innovation Series and additional resources are available on NRHI's

[COVID Testing Project Hub](#)



Thank you!



To learn more email jlittle@nrhi.org
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