

SUNY Corning Community College COVID-19 Pooled Testing for Surveillance

OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

The objective is to provide sensitive, accurate, and rapid feedback about the presence of SARS-COV-2 in saliva samples from individuals on campuses.

The pooled testing technique allows a lab to mix several samples together in a “batch” or pooled sample and then test the pooled sample with a diagnostic test. If the pooled sample is negative, it can be deduced that all individuals were negative. If the pooled sample comes back positive, then each sample needs to be tested individually to find out which sample provider was positive at the time of testing. Because samples are pooled together, ultimately fewer tests are run overall, meaning fewer testing supplies are used. In most cases, pooled testing also has the benefit of reducing the time needed from collecting specimens to testing results, which is critical for campus reopening. However, because samples are diluted in most pooling strategies, this could result in less viral genetic material available to detect, and there is a greater likelihood of false negative results, particularly if not properly validated. This method works well when there is a low prevalence of cases, meaning more negative results are expected.

PARTICIPATION

This SUNY Corning Community College plan will be managed and implemented by the Executive Director of Auxiliary Campus Services in conjunction with the Emergency Response Team and College Health Office.

To participate in the SUNY Surveillance Testing program and order testing supplies, SUNY Corning Community College will contact Steve McClintic at McClintS@upstate.edu (preferred contact) or by phone at 315-464-4232 and indicate the following information:

- Campus name and contact person; Executive Director of Auxiliary Campus Services or the College Nurse
- Number of Students/Faculty/Staff to be included in the testing (maximum size of each pool sample is 12 individuals)
- Number of collection stations anticipated
- Dates of expected collections – this will be determined upon recommendation of

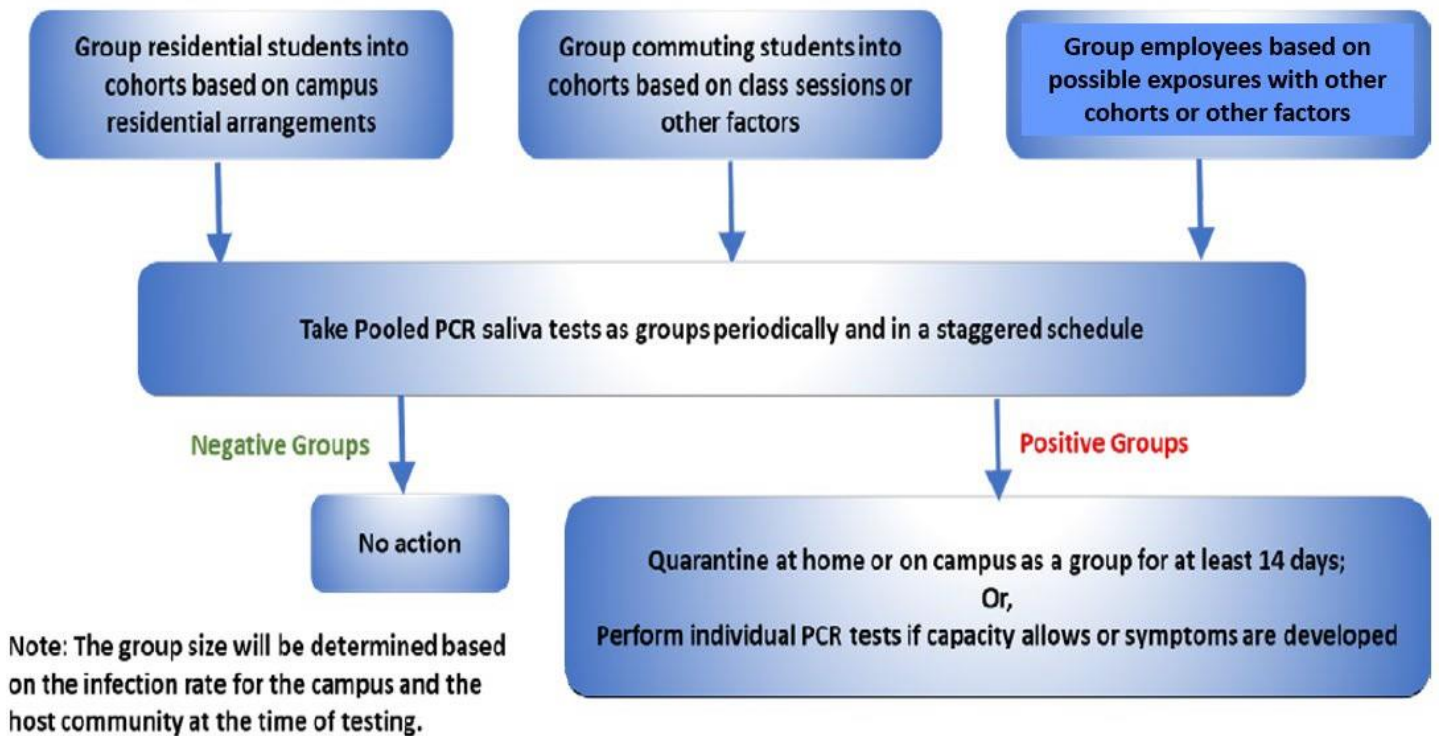
POPULATIONS TO BE SAMPLED

Pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals can be infectious without knowing it. Pooled testing can be effectively used for surveillance by estimating the campus situation in terms of pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic cases, and proactively preventing outbreaks when possible. By grouping individuals based on living arrangements, class schedules and office duties and schedules, groups can be established and periodically selected for pooled testing. Individuals will not be tested in more than one pool regardless of their affiliation (e.g. athletes who are also Suites residents will be tested with only one cohort pool). Based on the trend of periodic pooled testing results, an increase of active infection cases may help inform if any preventive actions need to be taken.

SUNY Corning Community College will collect up to 14 Pools of 12 students per week at the beginning of the program. This number may be adjusted based upon existing circumstances. Pools to be tested will be identified the week prior so that all participants can prepare ahead of time. A notification message will be sent to participants in advance advising them of the date, time and location of the testing. They will also be advised that participation in the testing process will be mandatory for continued face to face coursework.

See the following flow chart for details:

Pooled Testing for Surveillance



Students

The following student populations will be sampled in cohort groups:

- Residence hall room assignment proximity
- Athletic Teams
- Educational program (by individual curriculum, class or lab assignment)

Employees

Employee testing shall be on a voluntary basis at this time unless collectively bargained and agreed to as a term and condition of employment, with the understanding that a positive test may result in a 14-day quarantine. Employees not represented by a CBA shall be tested on a voluntary basis as well. Employees who are within the same cohorts as the students being tested (e.g. Housing personnel with residential students, coaches with an athletic team, instructor with individual class, etc.), will be invited and encouraged to participate in the pooling at the same time their student cohorts are being tested.

Students

- All people in the pool will be tested on the same day, within the same relative time period.

Employees

- Employees who are within the same cohorts as the students being tested will be invited and encouraged to participate in the pooling at the same time their student cohorts are being tested.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Personnel for the collection site DO NOT need a medical background (per Upstate). Each collection station will need at least 4 staff members, as follows:
 - 1-3 **Greeters/Monitors** to screen and assist students as they arrive,
 - 2 **Attendants** to distribute saliva collection kits and receive completed collections,
 - 1 person to pool samples (the **Pooler**)
2. Two tables for each collection station (one for materials to distribute to individuals being tested and one for pooling purposes)
3. Container of disinfecting wipes (1 per station)
4. PPE, including box of disposable paper gowns with cuffed sleeves, box of plastic gloves, face masks and facial shields or goggles (3 each per station)
5. Several tables and chairs for individuals being tested to use near each collection station (spaced 10 feet apart)
6. Transportation container for pool bags of individual swabs
7. Large trash receptacles (1 per station) with bags and ties
8. Social distancing reminder marks and signs
9. Hand sanitizer stands

The Executive Director of Auxiliary Campus Services or the College Nurse will contact Upstate Medical to obtain the following items:

- Large instruction cards (5)
- Barcoded swab kits (1 per student)
- Labeled centrifuge pool collection tube (1 per pool)
- Labeled collection bag (1 per pool) sufficient to hold 12 collection tubes
- Tube rack to hold 12 samples and pool collection tube (the Collection Rack) (2 per station)
- Tube rack to hold 96 full/closed pool collection tubes (the Pooled Rack) (1 per station)
- Transportation container and lid for pool bags (each containing 12 empty collection tubes)
- Transportation container and lid for pool collection tubes

COLLECTION PROCEDURE

1. Students are informed of the collection process in advance via email. The announcement will advise the person to be tested that they must participate by the due date to be eligible for in-person class attendance and/or to continue to reside on campus. Students may be excused from testing if they provide proof within 48 hours of a negative COVID-19 test within the last ten (10) days.
2. Collection areas will be noted in the layout section of the document. The college will assign personnel to direct testing individuals to and from the collection site.
3. Students will be provided a specific time to report based on last names, ID numbers or other convention as determined by the college.
4. Collection day is determined ahead of time for each campus based on SUNY processing lab reservation and pre-arranged by the Executive Director of Auxiliary Campus Services or the College Nurse.
5. Prior to the day of testing, students are instructed to:
 - Create a COVID-19 Surveillance Account and register on-line (<http://register.suny-covid.com/>),
 - Bring a photo ID card and their personal mobile device to the collection station,
 - Not brush their teeth or use mouthwash three hours before reporting to the collection area.
6. Students should arrive 30 minutes prior to testing at which point students are instructed not to eat or drink anything, including chewing gum, mints or lozenges, must abstain from smoking, vaping, or using smokeless tobacco products.
7. Staff members will assist students in forming lines at their assigned collection stations, maintaining 6 feet distance (reminder signs will be posted).

Collection Day Procedures

1. Staff will wear proper PPE (gloves and masks) prior students arriving. The Pooler additionally will wear a gown and face shield. All staff should be wearing closed toe shoes.
2. Each student will be asked to approach the Greeter station with their student ID in one hand and their mobile device in other hand. (If students do not have a smart phone, the college will have a device available for student use. Each device will be disinfected between students.)
3. The Greeter will ask the person who will be tested if they are currently experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms; if yes, the Greeter instructs the student to stop, return home and contact their healthcare provider.
4. Non-symptomatic students are asked to verify that they have not eaten, drank, brushed their teeth or used other prohibited substances as instructed. If they cannot verify this, they are asked to exit and return in an hour.
5. The Greeter checks to make sure the student has started registration of the COVID-19 Surveillance app. If the student has not registered, they are told to step aside and register.
6. When prompted, the student puts their ID away and approaches Attendant 1.
7. Upon arriving at the assigned collection station, the student will clean their hands using hand sanitizer.
8. The student launches their COVID-19 Surveillance Account using their own mobile device or the college tablet.
9. The student is instructed not to open the saliva swab collection kit, and is then handed their kit.
10. The student registers the collection kit to their identity by scanning or entering the saliva collection kit barcode. Scanning should be completed while collection kit is still packaged.
11. Attendant 1 verifies the student has entered the correct barcode. To do this, student should read the barcode

from their mobile device or tablet, while the Attendant 1 follows the number on the collection tube. If there are inconsistencies, the student is asked to correct them before proceeding

12. Attendant 1 prompts student to move to Attendant 2 with their collection swab.
13. Following the guidance of Attendant 2 and the instructions provided on the saliva collection kit, the student collects saliva from their mouth for 10-15 seconds. In order to achieve a higher throughput, Attendant 2 can oversee two students at once during this process if they are able to monitor effectively while maintaining proper social distancing.
14. The student places the swab into the tube, tightly closes the tube and shakes it vigorously 10x to mix the sample with the stabilizing reagent.
15. If the collection is successful, the student hands the tube to Attendant 2. Once prompted by Attendant 2, the student will finalize their registration. Otherwise, the collection tube is discarded in the trash and the student returns to Attendant 1.
16. Attendant 2 adds the collection tube to the Collection Rack. Once 12 samples are in this rack, the Pooler retrieves the rack and transfers it to the pooling table. Saliva samples should be grouped into pools of 12 wherever possible. (If on occasion it is not feasible to have a pool of 12 samples, you may create a pool with as few as 6 samples.

*Based upon the price that is being offered, Upstate limits this testing to no more than 12 samples per pool. There may be an additional charge if there is a significant number of pools with fewer than 12 samples to cover Upstate's increased costs in performing the testing. In no event should you create a pool of more than 12 samples.
17. For each of the 12 samples in the collection rack, the Pooler twists opens the lid, squeezes the liquid from the swab by twisting it against the inside of the sample collection tube and then transfers the entire liquid contents from the collection tube to a secondary barcoded pool tube.
18. After collecting the sample, the Pooler tightly twists closed each original sample tube and adds it to the labeled common pool collection bag.
19. The common pool tube stays in the collection rack until it has received all individual samples (up to 12 per common pool tube).
20. With the addition of the last sample, the common pool tube is **sealed tightly** and the exterior of the tube is wiped with a disinfectant wipe.
21. The Pooler verifies that the common pool tube and pool collection bag (which now contains the empty individual collection tubes) have the same label and places the common pool tube in the Pooled Rack. The pool collection bag (containing all of the empty individual collection tubes) is set aside for transport to SUNY Upstate. Pool sample tubes must be kept out of direct sunlight and held at room temperature.
22. After each pool collection is complete, the Pooler changes gloves or uses a disinfecting wipe to thoroughly clean their gloves before handling the next set of pool tubes.
23. The collection site will be cleaned/disinfected prior to removing PPE, including, wiping down the face shield and tablet (if used) with a fresh disinfecting wipe, and collecting waste with a double glove procedure.
24. After all the pools have been collected, the pool tubes and pool collection bags (containing all empty saliva collection vials) are transported by SUNY CCC personnel to SUNY Upstate the processing lab in Syracuse. If UPS shipping is considered, contact surveillance.testing@quadrantbiosciences.com to create a UPS account.

NOTE - For next day results, the samples must be received by SUNY Upstate by 3 pm. *If tests are delivered M-F by noon, the test would be completed by late afternoon and resulted the next morning.* SUNY Upstate can receive samples from 8 am until 7 pm at the Institute for Human Performance, 505 Irving Ave., Syracuse, NY 13210. Delivery should be made through the rear building entrance (accessible through the garage entrance facing Madison St). Free parking is provided in the garage for up to 30 minutes. Rhianna Ericson should be contacted via email at EricsonR@upstate.edu or by phone/text at 540-903-5514 to confirm the time and date of deliveries.

RESPONSE TO RESULTS

Negative Pool

- All individuals in pool are presumed to be negative for COVID-19.
- SUNY Upstate will maintain a list of students and whether they were included in a pool which indicated "presumptive negative" or otherwise.
- SUNY Upstate will report the following information to SUNY CCC after testing is complete:
 - Students/Faculty/Staff who participated in the surveillance testing (including ID number, Last Name, First Name),
 - Students/Faculty/Staff whose pooled sample tested "negative" will be indicated with a "presumptive negative" label.

Positive Pool

- SUNY Upstate will report the following information:
 - Students/Faculty/Staff who participated in the surveillance testing (including ID number, Last Name, First Name),
 - Students/Faculty/Staff whose pooled sample tested "positive" will be indicated with a "positive" label.
- Upon receipt of positive results, individuals in the pool will be required to provide a negative COVID-19 result before they are allowed to return to campus.
- Pooled individuals will be instructed to contact a healthcare provider or the college will assist the individuals in obtaining an individual test.

NOTE: *Federal and State regulations prevent Upstate from releasing individual results for pooled tests. If the college opts to have the reflex individual tests done on positive pools, the college will be required to provide the name of a Physician who will be listed as the ordering/authorizing/follow-up provider. The results will be sent to that provider. Students will sign a waiver that allows Upstate to send the college the results of the test. Students will also receive an e-mail that allows them to sign up for MyChart which provide access to their test results.*

LINKSTO INTRUCTIONAL VIDEOS

Swabbing Technique (students): <https://vimeo.com/447268833/5229da41b6>

Role of the Greeter and Attendants: <https://vimeo.com/447270240>

Role of the Pooler: <https://vimeo.com/447269539>

