

Good afternoon--

I wanted to provide a quick update as we all complete our first round of pooled testing. The process went very smoothly and I anticipate that parents who have not yet agreed to participate will likely want to provide consent. We are able to update the lists of consent forms and take additional students at any time. In fact, the greater the participation the better.

We did complete and submit pooled test results at all the elementary schools, both middle schools and the athletes at NHS. We received a notice of a few positive pools already (the turnaround time has been about 24 hrs) and followed up with providing BinaxNOW rapid tests to the students and staff who participated in the pooled testing. This helped us identify 2 asymptomatic people which we were then able to follow up contact tracing with the Santa Cruz County Health Department.

As we thought, by targeting the K-8 sites where we have children too young to be vaccinated (along with our athletes who have contact with students from other districts), the pooled testing program combined with follow-up rapid testing is proving to be a powerful tool to help us maintain a healthy and safe school environment.

Thank you, --Angel