

October 21, 2021

Information Provided by [20/20 GeneSystems](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

Registration

1. **Do I need to register?**

Yes. Registration is required prior to participation in the testing program. The most important part of registration is the collection of your consent for testing. 20/20 GeneSystems cannot test any individuals for whom we have not first obtained consent either directly from the individual or in the case of a minor from a parent or legal guardian.

2. **How do I register?**

Registration is through a dedicated web portal located at <https://schooltesting.2020gene.com/>. Please click the “click here to register” button and fill in the requested information. Your email address will serve as your login ID. You will receive an email with a temporary password to log in the first time, and will be prompted to change your password after you login for the first time. Note that this same web portal will be used for result reporting.

3. **What if I have more than one child to register?**

If you have more than one child, complete the initial registration process using the name and information for one of your children. Log in to your account and choose the “My Account” tab. Under the “My Students” section of the page you will find a list of individuals registered for testing. Above this table there is a button for “+ Add”. Click this button to add a new student for testing under your account. Fill out all relevant information and click “Save”. To edit a student record click on the name of the student in the list.

4. **What happens to the information that I submit?**

When you register, we collect basic demographic information that we are required to report to the Maryland Department of Health together with test results. This information is for identification and contact tracing purposes. We also collect school related information so that we can report results appropriately to your school. No information is shared with any other parties other than those designated by your school and the Maryland Department of Health. All of your information is stored on a secure server and held as confidential under all applicable Federal, State and local laws.

Testing Schedule

1. **How often will testing occur at my school?**

The testing schedule for your school has been worked out between the school and 20/20 GeneSystems. In most cases this will be on one day a week, but in some larger schools may occur twice per week. Testing will occur on the same day(s) every week. There are set hours and a set location at the school for testing.

2. **How do I find out what day(s) of the week testing will occur at my school?**

The school will inform you of the testing day(s), times and locations.

3. **What happens if an individual misses the sample collection time?**

If an individual misses a testing day, he/she should simply come for testing at the following testing session. This may not be until the following week. Repercussions for missed testing are at the discretion of the school.

Sampling Procedure

1. **Where will sampling occur?**

Generally, sampling will occur at your school in a place designated by the school for this purpose. In middle and high schools this will likely be at a central location within the school. In elementary schools this may be at a central location or a nurse may come to individual classrooms.

2. **Who administers the test?**

We will supply staff to collect samples. In most instances, swabbing is self-administered, and staff will instruct regarding proper sampling procedure. In some instances, when an individual is unable to self-swab, the staff are prepared to assist or perform the swabbing procedure.

3. **What type of sample will be taken?**

We use a nasal swab and sample from the lower portion of the nose. The swab does not need to go up the nose more than ~1 cm and is simply rotated around the nostril for ~5 seconds and then repeated in the other nostril. In some instances we will be collecting two swabs from each individual, in which case one swab can be used per nostril.

4. **How long does it take to collect a sample?**

Once an individual has learned the process, it generally takes 30-60 seconds to accomplish the entire collection process.

5. **What is the sample collection process like?**

Sampling that is performed at a central location will generally occur as follows. The individual will present to a staff member who will verify the name and date of birth of the individual on the testing roster. The staff member will transfer preprinted barcodes to the sample collection tubes and to any accompanying paperwork to identify the samples. The individual will be handed the collection materials i.e. swab(s) and collection tubes and be instructed to swab. Swabs are placed in the tubes and the tubes are sealed. The sealed tubes are returned to the staff member.

Laboratory Testing

1. **What happens to a sample after collection?**

Samples will be transported by courier to 20/20 GeneSystems' laboratory which is located in Rockville, MD for testing.

2. **What type of test is being performed?**

20/20 GeneSystems utilizes a nucleic acid detection test (PCR) to identify the RNA from COVID-19. This test is an FDA authorized test (EUA) and is run in our CLIA-certified laboratory.

3. **What is pooling?**

Samples may be tested through a process called pooling. Pooling is done to decrease sample processing times at our lab and allows us to report results in a more timely fashion. 20/20 GeneSystems uses three types of pooling: "pod" pooling, modified "pod" pooling and laboratory pooling.

“Pod” pooling refers to a procedure where swabs from multiple test subjects (up to 25) are placed in a single collection tube and tested as a unit. Only one swab is collected per individual. If test results are negative for the pod, then all individuals in the pod are negative. If a pod result is positive, it is not possible to know whose sample was positive and new samples must be collected from the individuals in the pod and tested individually to determine which subject was positive. In the case of a positive pod, no results are reported until individual samples are re-sampled and tested separately. “Pod” pooling works well for cohorts of individuals who spend most of their time together.

Modified “pod” pooling is similar to “pod” pooling but in this case two swabs are collected from each subject at the initial sampling. One swab is placed in the pod collection tube and the other is placed in its own individual tube. The laboratory first tests the pods. As in the case of “pod” pooling if test results are negative for the pod, then all individuals in the pod are negative. If the pod result is positive, the laboratory immediately tests the individual samples to identify the subject(s) in the pod that were positive. Results are reported based on the negative pods and/or the individual negative or positive samples. Modified “pod” pooling works well even when a random pooling process is applied as positive pools can be immediately followed-up by testing the individual samples.

Laboratory pooling uses only samples collected as individual swabs in individual tubes. At the laboratory up to 5 samples may be pooled for initial testing, but individual samples are saved for retest in the event of a positive pool. Results are reported based on the negative pools and/or the individual negative or positive samples.

Results

1. **When will my results be ready?**

Results are guaranteed to be ready within 24-36 hours of receipt by the lab, but 20/20 GeneSystems strives to report results by the morning following the day of collection.

2. **How do I access my results?**

Results are accessed through the same web portal used for registration, <https://schooltesting.2020gene.com/>. The portal is available 24/7. Results also reported to the designees at your school and to the Maryland Department of Health. 20/20 GeneSystems is not able to call with results, either positive or negative, and as such it is appropriate for you to check the web portal for test results.

3. **What happens if results are positive?**

20/20 GeneSystems reports results both to the Maryland Department of Health and to your school. In the event of a positive result, you will be contacted by MDH and/or your school to instruct you on the appropriate course of action and for contact tracing. 20/20 GeneSystems does not perform contact tracing and cannot give medical advice.