Wilton Public Schools COVID-19 Surveillance Testing Plan

Introduction

As part of our plan to return all of our schools PK-12 to full in-person learning, and in consultation with the Wilton Health Department and our medical advisor, our district has established a COVID-19 surveillance testing program. While the return to in-person learning at the secondary level is the impetus for the development of a surveillance testing program, we recognize the benefit of implementing this initiative district-wide. Therefore, we will be offering the opportunity to participate in surveillance testing to all in-person staff and students K-12 using a school-by-school phase-in model. Following a New York State school surveillance testing model, we propose testing approximately 5% of our school community each week with the goal of testing approximately 20% of our school population monthly.

Purpose

To further strengthen our approach to reducing the spread of COVID-19 with a layered mitigation strategy, we are adding routine surveillance testing of a percentage of school community members. Surveillance testing, in addition to mitigation strategies like mask wearing, social distancing, handwashing, self-monitoring, and regular deep cleaning can help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and will help maintain a safer community.

Testing Strategy

“Pool testing” is a cost-effective and time and resource-efficient alternative to individual COVID-19 RT-PCR testing. In this approach, samples are collected and tested together (using, in this case, saliva RT-PCR tests) in groups of 24. If a single person within the pool of 24 samples tests positive, the entire pool is submitted for retesting to identify the positive individual.

Target Population

Participation is voluntary. All in-person K-12 students and staff who have not previously been infected with COVID-19 in the last 90 days are invited to participate. Sign up for students here. Sign up for staff here.

Frequency

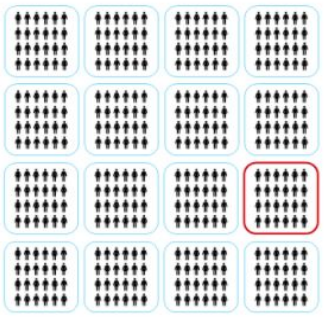
As noted above, the district will aim to test approximately 5% of our school community weekly and up to 20% monthly.

Procedure

The district will partner with Mirimus Labs (www.mirimus.com) and will utilize its SalivaClear self-administered saliva RT-PCR test. The SalivaClear test is a three-part testing strategy that enables us to pool and test together samples from 24 individuals. If a pool returns a positive result, it is repooled and tested in pools of 2 to isolate the positive sample. Results are returned within 24-36 hours.

The SalivaClear™ Solution

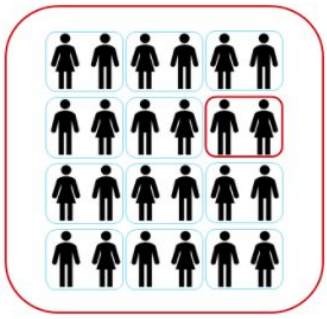
Mirimus has innovated high-volume COVID-19 PCR testing with SalivaClear™, a three-stage surveillance and individual reflex testing strategy to monitor and detect infection in populations by testing people in groups called pools.



Monitor Population

Test your population in pools of up to 24 people at a regular frequency to detect the presence of infection.

24 hours



Detect Hotspots

Detected positive pools are repooled and tested in smaller pools of 2 samples to isolate the infection.

12 hours

Reflex Test Individuals

A positive pool of 2 samples are reflex tested as 2 diagnostic tests to identify the infected individual.

6 hours

The SalivaClear™ Advantage

- High quality saliva-based RT-PCR testing
- High throughput, low cost, and rapid turnaround time for results
- Sample self-collection that is simple, safe, and noninvasive that requires no doctor or nurse
- All sample collection supplies and logistics provided for safe on-site sample collection events
- Quickly increase detection resolution by retesting smaller pools
- Scalable to frequently test large school and workplace populations
- Mirimus is a CLIA certified lab and results are reported through a secure, HIPAA compliant reporting platform

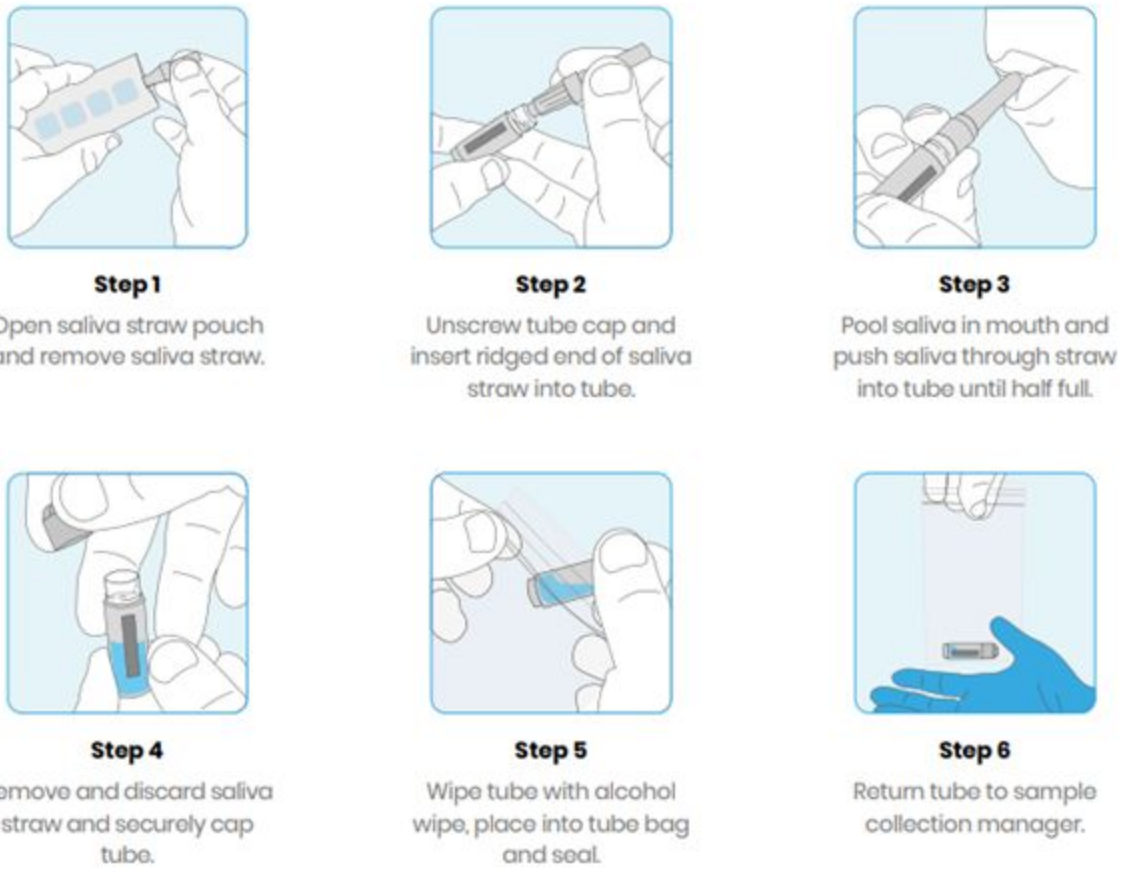
www.salivaclear.com

Test Administration

Participating students in grades K-12 will receive a testing kit that can be brought home. Parents will assist students as necessary in producing their samples the next morning and return the testing kit to school that day, within hours of submitting the sample.

Staff members will receive a testing kit to bring home, produce a sample the next morning, and submit the sample when they arrive to work the same day, within hours of producing it.

A minimum of one milliliter (1mL) of saliva is required in the 2mL vial that is provided. Samples need to have minimal bubbles. To accomplish this result, saliva is “pushed” into the testing straw rather than blown into the testing straw. For the typical adult or adolescent, it takes about 15-30 seconds to generate an adequate saliva sample. For younger children it can take longer to generate enough saliva for a sample.



Samples will be gathered and delivered to Mirimus Labs in Brooklyn, NY for processing. Results are generated within 24 hours.

https://video.mirimus.com/videos/watch/e44ddde3-d89c-4c20-9454-e1e9e21e73b3?start=47s

Privacy

Mirimus Labs will use bar codes and not names or other personally identifiable information to associate saliva samples. Mirimus will not retain any data or samples of tests. The Wilton Public Schools will confidentially maintain records of barcodes and individual names.

Communication

Once Wilton Public Schools administrative staff receives information regarding the test results, participants will receive communication by email for negative results and by

phone for positive results. Contact tracing will be conducted for positive results. Positive results will require isolation for positive individuals and quarantine based on contact tracing. (Please note that the method used by Mirimus Labs will enable us to know which individual in the pool is positive. Please see “Procedure” above for more information.)

Plan

Week of March 1	● Execute contract order and order testing kits
	● Receive training on use of database and barcoding system
	● Set up digital infrastructure
Week of March 8	● Share surveillance testing plan with community
	● Allow interested participants to sign up and complete consent form electronically
	● Initiate testing - Middlebrook Only
Week of March 15	● Phase in 1 Additional School - Middlebrook, Wilton High School/Genesis
Week of March 22	● Phase in 1 Additional School - Middlebrook, Wilton High School/Genesis, Cider Mill
Week of March 29	● Final Phase - Middlebrook, Wilton High School/Genesis, Cider Mill, Miller-Driscoll, District

Sample Testing Schedule

Ongoing	Volunteer students/staff sign up electronically to test; complete consent form
Friday	Administrative staff process requests, prepare testing kits for distribution, notify students and staff who has been selected to test for the upcoming week
Monday	Kits are delivered or made available to students and staff who are participating: *K-5 students* - classroom *6-8 students* - main office 9-12 students - front security booth of school *Staff* - workroom mailboxes
Tuesday AM	K-12 Students & All PK-12 Staff - produce samples before school, submit samples to designated secure box at the front security booth/main office when they arrive to school
Tuesday PM	Samples are collected and sent to Mirimus Labs
Wed/Thurs	Mirimus analyzes samples and notifies district of positive results; district notifies positive individuals, Wilton Health Department, school administration; district initiates contact tracing
Friday	Selection process begins again for additional volunteers; students and staff may not test two weeks consecutively but may test every other week

Cleaning/Sanitization Protocols

Prior to distribution:
School personnel handling the bags for barcoding and distribution will wear gloves and masks while doing so.

Submission of samples:
Because samples will be collected at home, there will be no sample submission sites at school.

Return of samples to school:
Samples will be transported from and to school inside of clear, plastic zipper bags provided by Mirimus Labs. All test kits will be inside the sealed plastic bags and will remain closed until opened by the participants. Samples will be dropped off at the front booth of each school to a staff member who will direct participants to drop the sealed bag directly into a secure box designated for the sole purpose of sample collection.

Retrieval, sorting, and processing of samples:
When samples are retrieved, counted, and sorted in order to be sent to Mirimus Labs, they will be handled by staff who are gloved and masked. (At no time will sample tubes be opened.) Samples will be boxed and sealed in preparation for shipment to Mirimus

Labs. Immediately after collecting and processing the samples in order to send them to Mirimus Labs, personnel will sanitize any equipment used during processing (computer mouse, barcode scanner, keyboard), dispose of their gloves using proper CDC doffing protocols, and wash their hands.