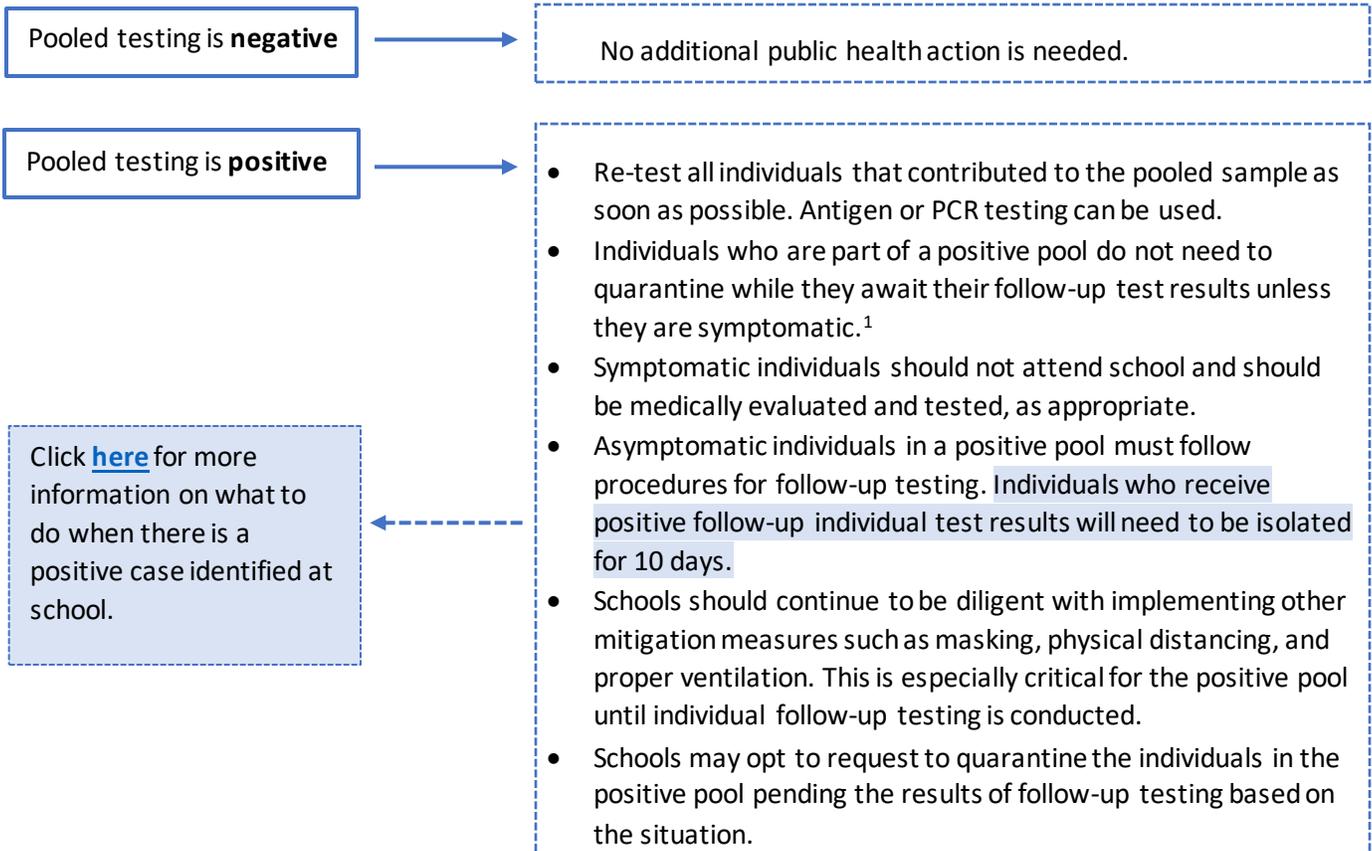


Public Health Guidance for Pooled Testing

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#) recommends [screening testing](#) for K – 12 schools as a layered mitigation strategy. The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), in partnership with [Concentric by Ginkgo Bioworks](#) (Ginkgo), is offering COVID-19 testing services at no cost to all K-12 Schools across the Commonwealth, with the exception of schools within Philadelphia county, for the entire 2021-2022 school year.

This K-12 testing program is voluntary and free for schools and participants. Participating schools can choose from three testing options when opting in the program, one of which is pooled testing. [Learn more about these types of testing offered by Ginkgo.](#)

What steps should schools take based on results of pooled testing?



¹ It is possible that individuals who had COVID-19 (knowingly or unknowingly) but are no longer contagious will cause some pooled tests to come back positive, and every test has a chance of false positives. If a pooled test comes back positive and all individual follow-up diagnostic tests come back negative, schools should re-test all individuals in the positive pool one additional time, ideally with PCR testing, before disregarding the positive pooled test result.